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No. 149

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 9, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG LAMALFA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2014, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 31, 2014, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Tuesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 31, 2014, and will be delivered on Monday, January 5, 2015.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at http://webster/secretary/cong_record.pdf, and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at <https://housenet.house.gov/legislative/research-and-reference/transcripts-and-records/electronic-congressional-record-inserts>. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT-59.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman*.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority

leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

REPRESSIVE CUBAN REGIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, just 90 miles from U.S. shores the most repressive human rights abuses in our hemisphere are being perpetrated by a regime that has shown no respect for human life and that will never change as long as the Castro brothers and their kind remain in power in Cuba.

Every day these brutal thugs continue to repress 11 million Cubans who yearn for freedom and the respect of

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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their basic human rights. But the regime isn't just a threat to the people of Cuba. They also operate within the United States, with sophisticated espionage, tradecraft, and are allies of our worst enemies.

We have but to remember the story of Ana Belen Montes. A senior analyst in our Defense Intelligence Agency, Ana Belen Montes was one of the masterminds of Cuba intelligence in the U.S. She was the top spy for the Castro regime and undermined U.S. foreign policy efforts throughout the world due to her nefarious espionage activities. She is certainly serving a long sentence in Texas.

But Castro also harbors fugitives from U.S. law, such as Joanne Chesimard. She is a New Jersey cop killer and earned the terrible distinction of being the first woman on the FBI's most wanted list of terrorists.

In 2001, Fidel Castro went to Iran and met with Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei, and Castro said at that time: Together, Cuba and Iran will bring America to its knees.

These are just a few of the examples of why it is imperative for the Obama administration to get tough with Castro, not only to protect our U.S. national security interests, but also to extend a helpful hand to the pro-democracy leaders on the island who are struggling for freedom.

The Cuban regime continues to repress independent journalists, human rights activists, and commits arbitrary detentions every day, all to thwart any attempt at the exercise of freedom of expression. I will show you just a few of the names and faces of the voices of those opposition leaders in the push for freedom on the island, and each deserves the attention of this body.

Mr. Speaker, this is Berta Soler. Berta Soler is the leader of a movement called Ladies in White, Las Damas de Blanco, a group of women tirelessly advocating for the release of political prisoners in Cuba. These courageous women walk to mass peacefully holding up flowers and are met with brutal attacks by Castro's state security. Berta Soler became the leader of this organization after the death of her predecessor, Laura Pollan.

Laura Pollan started this movement in Cuba. She died under mysterious causes in October 2011. Many people in the island and outside have blamed the Castro regime for the unfortunate and suspicious circumstances of her passing.

We also have many pro-democracy leaders who are still languishing in Cuban jails, and these are some of their faces. This first young man, his name is Angel Yunier Remon. He is also known as El Critico. He is another face of repression on the island. Angel was arrested in March for criticizing the Castro regime's brutal human rights abuses and the oppression of 11 million of his fellow countrymen. To this day, El Critico remains in prison for the mere crime of simply expressing his

right to address grievances through rhyme.

Then there is the face of Sonia Garro. Sonia is another member of the Ladies in White. Sonia and her husband were arrested 2 years ago in a violent raid. Her trial has been suspended four times without an explanation or any reason being given.

Along with Sonia, fighting for the causes of freedom and liberty is this young man, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez, better known as Antunez, who has been in prison in Castro's gulag for nearly 17 years. Antunez and his wife, Yris, have repeatedly been assaulted and beaten by state security forces, and their scars tell a story of resilience and commitment to the cause of freedom on the island. They are free now, but one does not know for how long.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, there is the case of Juan Carlos Gonzalez, another freedom fighter I would like to highlight. He is a lawyer who is blind. He has spent years defending the human rights of the Cuban people.

These are just a few of the faces of the pro-human rights activists in Cuba, Mr. Speaker. I could not possibly cover the face of every single dissident on the island, but these faces are representative of the horrors of the Cuban regime and the horrors that liberty fighters face there every day; and that is why, Mr. Speaker, it is our moral obligation to stand in solidarity with these pro-democracy activists and to be a voice for 11 million people who are being oppressed and silenced in Cuba.

PAUL SIMON WATER FOR THE WORLD ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, by unanimous consent motion offered by my friend, and the bill's Republican lead, TED POE, the House passed H.R. 2901, our Paul Simon Water for the World Act. It was almost anticlimactic, considering all the ins and outs it has taken for years to be able to hammer out the details necessary to take the next step in reform.

The hard work was all worth it, enhancing our efforts to have the United States embrace its responsibility to help the world deal with our water and sanitation crisis. Make no mistake about it; it is a crisis.

Today 152 million hours will be spent by women and girls to get water—often dirty, polluted water—to meet the basic needs of their families. Almost three-quarter billion people still lack access to this fundamental necessity of life.

There is an even greater crisis with inadequate sanitation. There are approximately 2.5 billion people who suffer from this lack of what most of us take for granted. It results in horrific disease, stunted growth, and malnutrition. In fact, the children under 5 who

are malnourished in India are suffering less from a lack of food and more from the diseases produced by poor sanitation. The children who do survive are left with mental and physical burdens for their entire life.

In a world where there are more cell phones than toilets, this is something that we can do something about. It is seriously out of kilter. The world knows what to do, and we can afford a solution. The enactment of the Water for the World legislation moves us in that direction by focusing the United States' efforts on things that will work, areas of the world most in need, and making sure our solutions are sustainable.

I deeply appreciate the leadership of my friend, colleague, and principle cosponsor of the bill, TED POE, who has been tireless in his efforts; the work of Chairman ROYCE and the Foreign Affairs Committee; our partners in the other body, Senators DICK DURBIN and BOB CORKER; and, of course, dozens of nongovernmental organizations that have been at work around the globe making progress while they have been unrelenting advocates here at home.

I must also acknowledge the tireless efforts of my legislative director, Michael Harold, who has done as much as any human alive to get this across the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, this is an amazing and important accomplishment, but it makes me pause. What else could we do in the spirit of bipartisan cooperation and doing what is right?

Might it be possible to take a small step, show a little courage, and embrace what Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill could do over 30 years ago? President Reagan used his radio address on Thanksgiving 1982 to provide leadership to more than double the gas tax, which he correctly pointed out was really a user fee and which had not increased in 23 years while roads were falling apart.

Well, the current gas tax has not been increased in almost 22 years, and America is falling apart and falling behind. The highway trust fund is going bankrupt. Everyone acknowledges an increase is long overdue. With gasoline prices falling dramatically, seemingly every week, and expected to continue doing so well into the foreseeable future, a nickel a gallon per year is hardly going to be noticed.

But as President Reagan pointed out, people will directly benefit. Today poor road maintenance costs the typical family \$377 per year in damage to their cars, far more than they would pay in a small increase in the gas tax. Millions of hours and billions of dollars are wasted due to highway congestion.

So let's square our shoulders. Let's show some backbone and vision and take another step forward. Let's raise the user fee we call the gas tax, put hundreds of thousands of people to work all across America at family wage jobs, and renew and rebuild this great country. This would be a nice

Christmas present that Americans will enjoy for years to come.

THE NDAA AND MILITARY BENEFITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, let me quote from Roger Simon in a recent article, titled, "Down the Opium Rathole." Mr. Simon writes about Afghanistan:

If you spent 13 years pounding money down a rathole with little to show for it, you might wake up one morning and say, "Hey, I'm going to stop pounding money down the rathole." Unfortunately, the United States Government does not think this way.

Mr. Speaker, last week we passed a \$585 billion bill known as the defense bill, with a large percentage of that money going into overseas contingencies: Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. I question how much damage this bill causes our military Active Duty and our retirees.

Let me quote from Lori Falkner Volkman, a former prosecutor and spokesman for the Keep Your Promise Alliance, an online coalition of military families and organizations. She said: "This is the second Christmas in a row that national leaders have tried to cut military pay benefits. Earned benefits should not even be on the table when entitlement budgets soar and appropriations budgets are billions of dollars over budget."

I did not vote for the NDAA bill. It was 1,648 pages, and we did not have enough time to read and comprehend the contents of the bill. In a recent article in the Jacksonville Daily News regarding my "no" vote on this bill, Mike Hayden, a retired Air Force colonel and present director of governmental relations for the Military Officers Association of America, known as MOAA, said: "An E-5 servicemember would lose more than \$800 in purchasing power annually when the bill takes effect. This is going to cost them a loss of about \$600 a month just in pay."

In the same article, Jim Davis, a retired marine who now lives in Jacksonville and serves as a senior vice commander of the local DAV chapter, said the cuts could adversely affect military families.

Charlie Brown, a quartermaster for the VFW post in Jacksonville, agreed with Mr. Davis and said the bill doesn't accurately reflect what servicemembers actually deserve.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote James Madison. James Madison wrote: "The power to declare war, including the power to judge the causes of war, is fully and exclusively vested in the legislature."

Mr. Speaker, for too long, we have not had policy debates on the floor of

this House, whether it be Iraq, Syria, or Afghanistan. When I look at the waste, fraud, and abuse in Afghanistan, I want to say to the Active Duty in the military and the retirees, I regret so much that the Congress is not debating the issues that we should be debating based on our constitutional duties.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to quote Pat Buchanan. Pat says: "Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?" I repeat: "Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?" Mr. Speaker, that is so prophetic. And I thank Pat Buchanan for trying to wake up Congress before it is too late.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have a poster beside me with Uncle Sam. And Uncle Sam says: "I want you to understand that if you can't afford to take care of your veterans, you can't afford to go to war." That, again, is what Pat Buchanan is saying.

Mr. Speaker, those of us in Congress in both parties need to understand that we have a constitutional responsibility to not commit our young men and women to fight and die and be wounded unless we debate the policy on the floor of the House.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform and their families, and please, God, continue to bless America.

EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, equal justice under the law—impartial and uniformly applied—has been, for more than two centuries, the ideological underpinning of American democracy.

But from the very beginning, this noblest aspiration has been intertwined with our struggle with race, a battle that has sometimes come to define our Nation and to divide it in ways that too often cleave us still today.

Mr. Speaker, 150 years since the Emancipation Proclamation and half a century after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 formally ended Jim Crow, our President, his Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the National Security Adviser are all African American.

Blacks are now prominent in every facet of American life. But much of this has occurred during my lifetime because people marched and sat and voted and demanded greater equality.

Yet despite the progress, equal justice under law is not the reality for too many of our fellow citizens, and injustice continues to limit their lives and their livelihoods in ways that are difficult for many White Americans to comprehend.

Inequality manifests itself at every rung of the criminal justice system, but its most deadly consequences are to be found in the encounters of young men of color with the police.

I have seen the video of Eric Garner in New York and watched the tragedy in Ferguson in the aftermath of the shooting of Michael Brown. The agony of those families and the anger of their communities have rightfully moved the Nation.

Sadly, they are not alone. The deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown grabbed national headlines, but decades of strife between police and many poor and minority neighborhoods have resulted in an endemic mistrust of law enforcement there.

One need only consider a phenomenon almost completely foreign to much of America, "the talk." It is a ritual that plays out in Black and Brown households across our Nation every day as parents teach their young children about the special dangers they face from law enforcement.

As a father, to hear that is heart-breaking. As someone who has long worked with and on behalf of law enforcement and who has deep respect for the bravery and integrity of so many who wear the uniform, it is a call to action.

First, in the months since the Michael Brown shooting, I have pressed for greater deployment of body-worn cameras to police departments across the country, an idea that the President has now endorsed. Cameras are not a panacea, but they are a first step on a path to greater accountability and transparency.

Second, since cameras alone will not bridge the chasm of mistrust between many communities of color and the police there to protect them, we must invest in 21st century police departments.

Effective policing requires mutual respect between the public and the police and a renewed emphasis on community policing strategies. Diversifying police forces so that they are more reflective of the communities they patrol and improving the training of officers to reduce the likelihood of violent confrontations are essential. This cannot be accomplished overnight, however, and generations of injustice have left deep scars.

So the third leg of any law enforcement reform agenda must be enhanced oversight by the Department of Justice, which has a long record of working with State and local police agencies to modernize and improve practices and behavior.

Justice Department intervention, as in the recent release of a report detailing excessive use of force by Cleveland Police, can be instrumental in overcoming opposition to reform. And I know that Attorney General Holder's successor will make this a priority.

We ask a lot from our police, who have a difficult and often dangerous job, and we grant them enormous power, including the right to take a life under certain circumstances. It is not only proper that we insist this power is used impartially and as a last resort. It is fundamental to a just society.

In a 1951 speech to the New York Legal Aid Society, the great jurist Learned Hand challenged his audience: "It is the daily, it is the small, it is the cumulative injuries of little people that we are here to protect. If we are able to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment: Thou shalt not ration justice."

Mr. Speaker, 63 years later, on a street corner in the same city, Eric Garner hauntingly invoked Hand when he pleaded in vain: "Every time you see me, you want to mess with me. I'm tired of it. It stops today. I'm minding my business, officer. I'm minding my business. Please just leave me alone."

Mr. Speaker, it must stop today.

Mr. Speaker, equal justice under law—impartial and uniformly applied—has been for more than two centuries the ideological underlining of American democracy.

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Even the mayor of New York, Bill de Blasio, said last week that he and his wife had to prepare their son—"as families have all over this city for decades—how to take special care in any encounter he has with police officers."

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Mr. Speaker, it must stop today.

TAX REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House passed legislation to extend a number of individual and business tax provisions that expired on December 31, 2013. This legislation would reinstate the provisions retroactively and extend them through the end of 2014.

As a former small business owner, I recognize the tremendous cost that Federal policy can have on American businesses and believe the temporary extension of many of these tax breaks is necessary. However, I have long been a consistent and vocal supporter of

simplifying the Tax Code and decreasing the tax burden of hardworking Americans.

If you listen to the political discussion in our country very long, you will inevitably hear some liberal lawmakers repeat one of their favorite lines: all of our country's budget problems would be solved if only we increased taxes. But our old friend across the pond, Mr. Churchill, once said: "A nation trying to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket trying to lift himself up by the handle." History has shown the truth of this statement: increasing taxes increases government spending and crowds out private sector investment, diminishing our prosperity.

It is ridiculous that Americans labor, on average, 111 days just to make enough to pay the government before starting to keep what they earn for the year.

At 70,000 pages long, the U.S. Tax Code is also far too complicated. It is almost five times wordier than the Bible, minus the grace and mercy. It is so complex and intimidating that the majority of Americans pay good money just to have someone else tell them how much the government is going to take from them.

It is also important that we reduce the number of loopholes in the Tax Code, which is why I have voted for the budget proposals introduced by Chairman RYAN since Republicans regained the majority in the House of Representatives in 2011. These Path to Prosperity budgets provide for comprehensive tax reform, close loopholes, and make our country more economically competitive.

The simple truth is that the United States has the highest corporate tax rates in the developed world. Continuing to make it more expensive to do business in the U.S. than elsewhere in the world will not encourage companies to operate and keep jobs in this country.

As we move forward with comprehensive tax reform in the 114th Congress, it is vital that we enact policies that strengthen and stabilize our economy as well as give individuals and businesses long-term certainty.

RECOGNIZING MINNIE MINOSO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday there was a vote by the Major League Baseball committee on who should be inducted into the Hall of Fame from a particular area. One of the players who was up for consideration—and, unfortunately, wasn't chosen—was Minnie Minoso, and it reminded me of the debt I owe Minnie Minoso.

Minnie Minoso was the first African Latin baseball player. And in 1954, in Memphis, Tennessee—a town I was born in and a town in the Southern United States that was especially a

part of the Jim Crow era—I went to a baseball game, an exhibition baseball game. And I was on crutches because I had polio. I had a Chicago White Sox cap on and a Chicago White Sox T-shirt.

A player came to give me a baseball from the opposing team, the St. Louis Cardinals. I thanked him. And I went and told my father. And we came down to thank him. And he said: “Don’t thank me. Thank that player over there.” He was the blackest player on the field, number nine, Minnie Minoso. He didn’t feel comfortable in 1955 to give me a baseball. Yet he was the player with the most compassionate heart and humility on the field because that was the segregated South.

Minnie Minoso became my hero, and I followed his career and became friends with him. We exchanged gifts. He came to Memphis, and I went to Chicago.

In 1960 when he came to Memphis, he was staying at the Lorraine Motel—the segregated African American hotel in Memphis—because African Cuban Latin players, African Americans weren’t allowed at the Peabody Hotel, where the other players were.

I couldn’t believe that my baseball hero, a great all-star, was staying at the Lorraine, which happens to be where Dr. King was murdered. But that is where he had to stay.

I learned about segregation from living in Memphis and from being befriended by Minnie Minoso. The insanity of segregation and the separation of people by race, that period of Jim Crow and previous slavery—which existed in this country for 250 years of slavery and 100-and-some-odd years of Jim Crow—still pervades this country.

There are lingering consequences which must be dealt with. The gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) well addressed them. Much must be done in law enforcement and criminal justice but also in education and opportunities for jobs, which people don’t have today in the South and many other places, in inner cities.

So as I think about Minnie Minoso, and I think about segregation and the effect that it has had on America—America’s original sin was slavery. We haven’t overcome it.

Some write about it and get recognition. People read their books. Ta-Nehisi Coates wrote in the Atlantic. Edward Baptist has written a book about the benefits that America got from the slave trade and how many people made money from it shipping cotton, making clothes, insuring the slave trade. It was the great economic benefit of this country and made this country great, all on slavery. Edward Baptist writes it well.

Michelle Alexander writes in “The New Jim Crow” about the incarceration rate of African Americans, that it is wrongfully high. If you are African American, the likelihood that you are going to be arrested and incarcerated is so much greater than a Caucasian for

living in the same society and doing the same things.

We must put an end to discrimination in all its forms and fashions. In the criminal justice system, sentencing reform needs to take place. In the criminal justice system, we need to see that law enforcement agencies and prosecutions of law enforcement officers are done transparently and fairly and justly.

We need to be sure that Americans continue to have faith that this is the land of the free and the home of the brave, and that our Nation is one in which people get equal justice, as was planned by our Founding Fathers but was never quite implemented.

VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss mental health services for veterans.

As you know, physical injuries are not the only ones endured in war. Many soldiers return home with wounds that we cannot see. For some veterans, the psychological trauma endured on the battlefield affects them and their families long after the shots stop firing.

□ 1030

Of the 2 million Americans who served in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan, as many as 300,000 meet criteria for posttraumatic stress disorder. Another 300,000 may have suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Mr. Speaker, for these servicemen and servicewomen, access to quality mental health care is crucial, so imagine being one of these soldiers who recently returned home with the lasting psychological effects that so commonly result from war.

Now, imagine that in seeking treatment from the VA, you are forced to go 67 days without an appointment. Sixty-seven days is the new average wait time for new mental health patients at the central Alabama VA; and, Mr. Speaker, that number has gotten worse. In May, the wait time for new mental health patients was 57 days.

Mr. Speaker, administrators claim that scheduling and labeling errors have contributed to making the problem appear worse on paper than it actually is, but if after all of this time we haven’t figured out how to properly schedule patients at the VA, we have worse problems than I thought. I don’t expect it to magically improve overnight, but we shouldn’t be moving in the wrong direction.

My primary focus is improving care for veterans in Alabama, and there are ways that we can do it. I am eager to see greater utilization of the Patient-Centered Community Care program, otherwise known as PC3, which connects veteran patients with local doctors or specialists.

It makes no sense to make a veteran wait 2 months for an appointment when we can refer them to an outside provider right away. I believe PC3 is a difference-maker, and I will continue to insist the VA leadership utilize it on the mental health side.

Mr. Speaker, a 2-month wait for mental health patients at the VA is obviously a disservice to our veterans, but it is also a major safety concern for veterans, their families, and the public. It might be uncomfortable to talk about, but the fact is we have a very high suicide rate among veterans.

Twenty-two veterans commit suicide every day. The tendency is even higher for young, male veterans, the very type that are returning home right now from war. The last thing that we should do is make it harder for veterans to get the treatment that they need.

That is why I rise today in support of H.R. 5059, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act. This bipartisan bill aims to, number one, increase access to mental health care for veterans; number two, better meet the demand for mental health professionals; and number three, improve accountability of suicide prevention efforts through the Department of Defense and the VA.

The bill is named for Clay Hunt, a Marine veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, earning the Purple Heart. He was diagnosed with PTSD and actually worked to raise awareness about problems facing people like him returning home from combat.

Like many veterans, Clay ran into roadblocks in his efforts to access care for his PTSD. I encourage everyone to look up Clay Hunt’s full story and read about the difficulty he faced getting needed care from the VA. For some veterans, it might sound all too familiar. On March 31, 2011, at the age of 28, Clay took his own life. Clay’s story is sad, it is disheartening, and it is infuriating. But what Clay’s story is not? It is not uncommon enough, 22 veterans a day.

Mr. Speaker, we have a long way to go as a Nation in making sure veterans in need of mental health care aren’t left behind, but let’s start this week by passing the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act.

HONORING PALO ALTO COLLEGE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEGO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Palo Alto College on the famed south side of San Antonio. Making a high impact through education, Palo Alto College has been meeting the needs of first generation college students in the San Antonio area and in the surrounding communities.

In doing so, Palo Alto College prepares students for a 4-year degree program or to enter the workforce with

the skills and the training necessary to strengthen the future of San Antonio, Bexar County, and the 23rd District of Texas.

Palo Alto College was officially chartered by the State of Texas in 1983. Two years later, in 1985, it began offering its first classes, and since then, Palo Alto has quickly grown with the city of San Antonio.

In 1991, because of its deep roots in the Hispanic community and its dedication to helping Hispanic families overcome common barriers to higher education, Palo Alto College was named a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the Federal Government.

Today, Palo Alto College serves over 8,000 students and offers 95 relevant academic programs that move the country forward. Programs include criminal justice and aviation technology, among many others. It also works very closely with employers like Toyota to be sure that its students are receiving cutting-edge training. In ensuring the college can meet the demands of Texas' energy production, it also offers programs in oil and gas technology.

It is ably led by Dr. Mike Flores who, prior to assuming the presidency, had worked his way up through each of the three vice president positions at Palo Alto, and he has served the Palo Alto community for over 19 years.

Where others have provided lip service, Palo Alto College has found success. With a firm understanding of the promise that our Nation has made to its veterans, Palo Alto College is committed to ensuring higher education remains accessible to veterans and Active Duty servicemen and service-women alike.

Palo Alto College has been listed among the top 20 percent of schools that support veteran education. It has an incredible network of people and resources available to serve veterans. I thank Palo Alto College for the work that they do with our veterans and the Active Duty military. It really is very impressive.

Palo Alto college also plays a fundamental role in the success of many individuals in our community, and its impact will be seen for many generations. Whether it's providing a second chance to nontraditional students through its GED programs or whether it is preparing students for the next level of education, Palo Alto College is there. It is there to meet the needs of the community and to help families achieve prosperity in the American Dream.

I congratulate Palo Alto College on its upcoming birthday—30 years of educational excellence—and I thank them for their continued commitment to ensure education remains accessible. Their mission to provide relevant and needed educational opportunities is admirable.

I look forward to seeing the many successes of those who pass through the doors of Palo Alto College.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT JIMMY MILLS HARGROVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, it is a special and high honor to be in this Chamber of the people's House to honor, to remember, and to pay respectful tribute to a most remarkable American, a true patriot, and one of the finest marines I have ever known, Master Gunnery Sergeant Jimmy Hargrove. He was a dear friend of mine and my family.

Jimmy was enlisted. He was an enlisted marine. This is my father, Ike; he is also an enlisted marine. He is doing great at the age of 91. He is an Iwo Jima veteran. There is something about enlisted marines, when we meet each other, we often ask, "Are you a Parris Island marine?" I was.

If you are a Parris Island marine, you usually give the other alternative, which is this. You say, "Or are you a Hollywood marine?" That is, did you go through boot camp in San Diego?

Well, that question applies to virtually all enlisted marines, but there are some whom that question really doesn't apply to because the answer is neither Parris Island nor San Diego, but it is a different place they went to boot camp, Montford Point, North Carolina.

From 1942 to 1949, 20,000 young African American men, young Black men from across our country like Jimmy, didn't go to Parris Island or San Diego. He went to Montford Point, and that is where he endured the training that defines, shapes, and molds young men and women now into marines—fully segregated units.

These marines have gone on to fight in our Nation's battles. Jimmy, for example, fought in Korea and then Vietnam. Some have been grievously wounded. Many gave the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation.

It was fitting and proper, Mr. Speaker, when in 2012 this body and the Senate unanimously passed legislation which President Obama then signed into law which gave to all Montford Point marines, all surviving Montford Point marines, the Congressional Gold Medal. It was a privilege to be at that ceremony. Jimmy took great pride in this, and he was there as well with his family and his wife, Cheryl.

There is no question, Mr. Speaker, that we are a better, stronger, and safer America because of our Montford Point marines, and we are a better, safer, and stronger America because of the life of Jimmy Hargrove.

This picture from 2013 at the Marine Corps ball is one of my favorite pictures. It shows the bond between two marines, really one generation to the next. I consider it an honor to pay tribute to him today.

Yesterday, Jimmy was laid to rest in Arlington. It is fitting that he is there in Arlington in eternal rest. What I

really remember about Jimmy and think about is—it is not pictured in this picture, but his smile, Jimmy's smile. He was always so optimistic, and though he knew the bitter fruit of segregation, he, himself, was not bitter.

He was fully optimistic about our Nation, and he fought for our Nation even after his retirement. He engaged in shaping public policy and shaping the way our country is headed. I deeply respect him for this. He did not yield to apathy's seductive call, but he chose to continue to fight for his country.

We marines are a proud lot. It is even embedded in our Marines' Hymn. The last verse is:

If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded
By United States Marines.

I think of Jimmy as still being on duty and in Heaven as well. He was a man of deep faith, and so I would say to my friend, in respect for his life and his service to our country, "Master Gunnery Hargrove, mission accomplished. Job well done, marine. Semper Fidelis. Semper Fi."

May God grant eternal rest to this fine American, and may God also provide a special measure of comfort and grace to his wife, Cheryl, and their entire family.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 78. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4110 Alameda Road in Houston, Texas, as the "George Thomas 'Mickey' Leland Post Office Building".

H.R. 1707. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the "James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 2112. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the "National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 2223. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the "Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building".

H.R. 2678. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10360 Southwest 186th Street in Miami, Florida, as the "Larcenia J. Bullard Post Office Building".

H.R. 3534. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as the "Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 4939. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2551 Galena Avenue in Simi Valley, California, as the "Neil Havens Post Office".

H.R. 5030. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13500 SW 250 Street in Princeton, Florida, as the "Corporal Christian A. Guzman Rivera Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1281. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2142. An act to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100-702, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individual to the board of the Federal Judicial Center Foundation:

Peter Kraus of Texas, vice Richard D. Casey of South Dakota.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Robert Jeffress, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come into Your presence recognizing that You are the one true God, the Lord over all creation.

Father, today I want to thank You for the men and women in this House who so selflessly serve You and serve our Nation. I pray that You would bless their work, protect their families, reassure them that they are in this place of leadership because You have promoted them here.

Today, Father, we acknowledge that all of us are here on Earth not to do our will but to accomplish Your will. We affirm the words of the psalmist who said, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

We confess that no individual, no nation can experience Your favor apart from obeying Your commands, following Your principles. Father, I pray You would grant these Representatives the wisdom to lead our Nation and to do just that, so that we may experience Your blessings and not Your judgment.

We pray all of these things in the name of the One who was born in Beth-

lehem, who died on a cross, and rose again that we might have eternal life, Jesus Christ our Lord. It is in His name that we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, our chaplain today is Dr. Robert Jeffress, senior pastor of the 11,000-member First Baptist Church in Dallas. His opinions are ubiquitous on radio and television, as is his radio program, "Pathway to Victory."

His weekly TV program is on over 1,200 stations and systems worldwide, while he has authored 21 books and is a FOX News contributor.

While some churches flee downtown areas, Dr. Jeffress led his church in a massive revitalization of downtown Dallas. He has a bachelor's from Baylor, master's from Dallas Theological Seminary, doctorates from Southwestern Theological Seminary and Dallas Baptist University.

He and his wife, Amy, have two daughters, Julia and Dorothy, who are here today, and son-in-law, Ryan Sadler.

Dr. Robert Jeffress is principled, brilliant, charitable, and his faith in God leaves no room for fear of man. He and my wife, Kathy, grew up together in church, and he is a dear, treasured friend of mine.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NORTH STATE AVIATION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize North State Aviation, an aircraft maintenance company based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

In November I had the pleasure of attending the company's fourth anniversary event to celebrate the completion of work on their 300th United Airlines aircraft and 400th aircraft overall.

In just 4 short years, North State Aviation has experienced exponential job growth, going from zero to 365 full-time employees. More than 100 of those employees are military veterans.

However, the economic impact of North State Aviation goes beyond the company itself. While the company's ambitious growth plan has enabled hundreds of workers to find jobs in Winston-Salem, the local community and the region's aviation industry have benefited as well.

As a result of North State's success, Smith Reynolds Airport has been able to afford the ongoing construction of Runway 4-22, and the airport's master plan includes an additional hangar, in part to give North State more expansion space.

North State Aviation is a company that recognized an opportunity and seized it through hard work and innovation. Its resulting success is well deserved.

SOUTH SUDAN

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern about the ongoing situation in South Sudan. Next Monday we will mark the 1-year anniversary of the outbreak of civil conflict in that young country, which gained its independence in 2011.

Since that conflict began, as many as 2 million people have been displaced, while 1.5 million people are without secure access to food. 50,000 civilians are estimated to have been killed as a result of the fighting between the rival factions.

Alarming, Mr. Speaker, both sides have been stockpiling weapons and are expected to launch fresh attacks once the rainy season ends.

The international community, with strong American leadership, must encourage a peaceful resolution before further bloodshed occurs.

I want to commend the United Nations Mission in South Sudan peacekeepers for their hard work bringing aid to those in need, and I thank Secretary Kerry for his efforts to achieve a political settlement.

I traveled to Juba in 2007. As a matter of fact, the former chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentlewoman from Florida, was with me. I saw a nation full of promise and hope for the future on the cusp of its independence. That bright future of possibilities for the people of South Sudan ought not to be dimmed by violence, instability, and enmity.

As Americans, we must exert our diplomatic arsenal to bring an end to the fighting and restore that promise of a peaceful and hopeful future for South Sudan.

SANCTIONS IN IRAN

(Mr. TIPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, recently negotiations with Iran over the country's nuclear program were extended again for another 7 months. This extension, however, carried no additional or strengthened economic sanctions on Iran. Disturbingly, we have now heard that the administration has considered sanctions against Israel, our ally.

A nuclear Iran poses an incredible threat to the Middle East and to the United States. The security of our allies, including Israel, and the stability of the region is at stake. Stronger sanctions are needed regarding Iran—not our ally Israel—to increase pressure, advance negotiations, and achieve a favorable outcome for the U.S. and all of our allies. There is no room for error, and the administration must get a strong agreement in place.

H.R. 850, the Nuclear Iran Prevention Act of 2013, seeks to strengthen and update sanctions on Iran. This passed the House of Representatives. Despite broad bipartisan support, the Senate has done nothing on this bill. The Senate needs to take it up and increase pressure on Iran to reach an agreement. We cannot afford to wait.

FEMA AID FOR WESTERN NEW YORK

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, when a natural disaster strikes, the damage and cleanup costs often far exceed the local government's ability to respond and to rebuild.

Americans take comfort in the knowledge that the Federal Government will aid in the response by providing assistance to mitigate the often massive costs of natural disasters.

The recent record-breaking snowstorm in western New York reminded the Nation that Buffalonians are resilient and generous people. That was on display during the storm and its aftermath with so many instances of neighbors helping neighbors.

The storm also left my community with significant expenses in terms of the emergency response and structures that collapsed under the weight of the snow. That is why I have joined the western New York delegation to urge FEMA to act quickly to certify the disaster and disburse assistance.

Western New Yorkers are the first to volunteer to aid other communities in need. Now we must ensure a helping hand is there for them when they are in need.

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House moved forward historic legislation that represents widespread Montana priorities. From protecting some of our State's greatest treasures, as well as access to our public lands, to developing Montana's energy resources and creating better certainty for our farmers and ranchers, this bill reflects the concerns of Montanans from across our entire State. But just as importantly, it represents the way we do things in Montana and the kind of change we need to see in Washington.

In Montana, we know the importance of rolling up our sleeves and working together to get something done. By coming together, the Montana delegation and Montanans from all corners of our State were able to break gridlock in Washington and bring this most important legislation forward.

I am proud that the House acted last week and passed this bill with strong bipartisan support. I call on the Senate to quickly do the same.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF STEVE SAULS

(Mr. GARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend Steve Sauls, Florida International University's vice president for governmental relations, who is retiring after more than 30 years of commitment to the community and the State of Florida.

During his tenure at FIU, Steve helped secure funding for the International Hurricane Center in the wake of Hurricane Andrew, fought to receive authorization for the College of Law at FIU, and played a key role in creating the College of Medicine. Through these efforts and countless others, Steve has helped develop FIU into one of the top public universities in the country. I have been honored to represent FIU in my district and work with Steve to help support this vibrant educational community.

After building a long track record of impressive accomplishments, Steve will be sorely missed. I urge you to join me in recognizing his contributions to south Florida and our country.

HONORING MAJOR KEVIN TANN, UNITED STATES ARMY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Army congressional liaison to the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives Major Kevin Tann. Major Tann will be leaving his post at the end of this month but will continue to serve our great Nation working in cyber intelligence at the U.S. Army Cyber Command in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Originally a native of North Carolina, Kevin chose to attend college at my alma mater, Florida International University, where he earned a degree in criminal justice and a master of arts in public administration.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army's Aviation Branch, Kevin participated in multiple combat tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has earned the Army Aviation and Parachutist Badges, the Bronze Star Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and many others.

It is my distinct pleasure to join with Kevin's family, friends, peers, his wife, Joy Tann, and his son, Kevin Joseph Tann, as they honor the many accomplishments of his outstanding career.

THE HOUR OF CODE

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the issue of gender imbalance in the computing industry.

Today, women make up over half of the American workforce but only a quarter of the professional computing occupations. We see a similar imbalance in the classrooms. Girls in high school take over half of all the advanced placement exams but only a fifth of computer science exams.

This imbalance deprives the computing industry of a great resource of human capital, and it limits its creativity. To address this imbalance, we need to encourage our female students to pursue computer science as early as possible.

In that spirit, I would like to recognize Computer Science Education Week and the Hour of Code. These programs have reached tens of millions of students worldwide. We need programs like these to ensure that the next generation of computer professionals is diverse so we have all the best talent.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MAJOR D. "JIM" OLMES, JR., OF OIL CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the life of Major D. "Jim" Olmes, Jr., of Oil City, Venango County, Pennsylvania. A World War II veteran, a beloved family member, and community leader, Mr. Olmes passed away last week at the age of 93.

Major Olmes was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for valor as a forward air observer during the Battle of Iwo Jima and the Air Medal and also served as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

Following his service, Olmes attended the University of Pittsburgh, where he earned his law degree before starting his own private practice. He was also active in the community, serving on the Oil City school board and the former Northwest Pennsylvania Bank and Trust Company board.

Major Olmes was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Lee Pence, following more than 60 years of marriage together. As reported in the Oil City Derrick, "His greatest joy was his family."

Mr. Speaker, let us remember the special life of Major D. "Jim" Olmes as we pray for his family during this time of mourning.

THE USE OF VIOLENCE IS ABHORRENT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as we come to this season of joy, I am always committed to wishing all of my colleagues of this body, this government, and our people a happy holiday.

We are on the brink of the release of a report that talks about issues of torture which America has stood against. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to communicate that any report of past practices which we abhor does not indicate our lack of respect for the men and women of the CIA, nor does it give excuse to any international provocateur or terrorist to do violence to their own people.

This is a deliberative assessment of how we can go forward, how we can continue to protect this Nation, and as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, it is important to protect our Nation. But we should not yield to those who will use this recklessly and violently to do terror around the world.

Let me thank our marines who are on high alert. Let me also bring to the attention of my colleagues that tomorrow is Human Rights Day, and I hope that we will stand on this floor and promote the values of human rights.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I challenge and charge those who would use this in a violent way: you are wrong, you are wrong, and you are wrong.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF NEBRASKA'S LONGEST-SERVING GOVERNOR, DAVE HEINEMAN

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public

service of Dave Heineman, Nebraska's longest-serving Governor. More important than his time in office is what he has accomplished.

He has kept our State prosperous by supporting agriculture, opening new trade opportunities, reforming economic development incentives, and improving education through greater local control. He has also been an ally of taxpayers by keeping our budget balanced and also advocating for tax reform. Under his watch, Nebraska consistently ranks among the best States to live, work, do business, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful and grateful for Governor Heineman's leadership and service. I join all Nebraskans in wishing him and his wife, Sally Ganem, Godspeed as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT OF 2014

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I represent a very rural district in northern California which has been greatly impacted by the drought. The town of Redding, for example, has had its water supplies cut to 50 percent this year. Farmers along the Tehama-Colusa Canal received no water at all from the Central Valley Project, leaving thousands of acres of productive farmland fallow.

After the third year of historic drought—the worst drought in 1,200 years, historic in California—it is imperative that we act immediately to prepare for another dry year.

H.R. 5781 by DAVID VALADAO takes immediate action to store more water and start on this remedy. This legislation is just 18 months in duration, giving us time to continue working with the Senate on a longer-term solution.

H.R. 5781 has two simple components: creating flexibility so we can store more water in preparation for the coming year; and preserving the most fundamental water right of all, the idea that those who live where water originates should have access to it.

We also protect northern California to ensure that those who live where our water originates do not have to have their water cut off while other areas of the State receive deliveries. Under this measure, northern California will be guaranteed access to the water that rains on their communities.

Mr. Speaker and Members, we have worked in good faith to negotiate a bipartisan bill to address California's drought. Nothing in this measure is controversial. It leaves the Endangered Species Act intact, it respects water rights, and it helps every region of California. Twenty million Californians will benefit in some fashion or another.

After several years of drought, it is imperative we get on the ball and pre-

pare California for the coming year. We are prepared to continue negotiating, but there is no water to waste, and there is no time to waste. California needs us to act today by passing this measure while we continue to work through the process.

RENEWING OUR GREAT NATION

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, with each new day brings new opportunities for our Congress to work together and solve problems on behalf of the American people.

As the 113th Congress comes to a close, we do so leaving almost 400 bills that have passed the people's House that we sent to the Senate which create jobs, reduce government waste, and support investment in our Nation's future; yet these bills were never even considered or voted upon by the Senate, and they were never heard from again.

As evidenced by the recent elections, the American people reject this blatant partisanship, they reject the dysfunction of the Senate, and they reject the unilateral action by the executive branch to run roughshod over the voice of the people.

As the national debt soared past \$18 trillion last week, we were reminded that it is time to roll up our sleeves and get to work to reduce spending and balance our budgets, to promote energy independence, and to create jobs and grow our economy, to fix our broken immigration system, and to ensure the safety and security of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we know there is much work to be done. As we turn to hopeful optimism for the next Congress, let's turn the page together, and let's renew our great Nation.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 9, 2014 at 9:22 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2520.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CHESAPEAKE BAY ACCOUNTABILITY AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1000) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1000

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) **CHESAPEAKE BAY STATE.**—The term “Chesapeake Bay State” or “State” means any of—

(A) the States of Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware, and New York;

(B) the Commonwealths of Virginia and Pennsylvania; and

(C) the District of Columbia.

(3) **CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED.**—The term “Chesapeake Bay watershed” means all tributaries, backwaters, and side channels, including watersheds, draining into the Chesapeake Bay.

(4) **CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**—The term “Chesapeake Executive Council” has the meaning given the term by section 117(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1267(a)).

(5) **CHIEF EXECUTIVE.**—The term “chief executive” means, in the case of a State or Commonwealth, the Governor of the State or Commonwealth and, in the case of the District of Columbia, the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

(6) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(7) **FEDERAL RESTORATION ACTIVITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “Federal restoration activity” means a Federal program or project carried out under Federal authority in existence as of the date of enactment of this Act with the express intent to directly protect, conserve, or restore living resources, habitat, water resources, or water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including programs or projects that provide financial and technical assistance to promote responsible land use, stewardship, and community engagement in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

(B) **CATEGORIZATION.**—Federal restoration activities may be categorized as follows:

(i) Physical restoration.

(ii) Planning.

(iii) Feasibility studies.

(iv) Scientific research.

(v) Monitoring.

(vi) Education.

(vii) Infrastructure development.

(8) **STATE RESTORATION ACTIVITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “State restoration activity” means any State program or project carried out under State authority that directly or indirectly protect, conserve, or restore living resources, habitat, water resources, or water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including programs or projects that promote responsible land use, stewardship, and community engagement in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

(B) **CATEGORIZATION.**—State restoration activities may be categorized as follows:

(i) Physical restoration.

(ii) Planning.

(iii) Feasibility studies.

(iv) Scientific research.

(v) Monitoring.

(vi) Education.

(vii) Infrastructure development.

SEC. 3. CHESAPEAKE BAY CROSSCUT BUDGET.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, in consultation with the Chesapeake Executive Council, the chief executive of each Chesapeake Bay State, and the Chesapeake Bay Commission, shall submit to Congress a financial report containing—

(1) an interagency crosscut budget that displays, as applicable—

(A) the proposed funding for any Federal restoration activity to be carried out in the succeeding fiscal year, including any planned interagency or intra-agency transfer, for each of the Federal agencies that carry out restoration activities;

(B) to the extent that information is available, the estimated funding for any State restoration activity to be carried out in the succeeding fiscal year;

(C) all expenditures for Federal restoration activities from the preceding 2 fiscal years, the current fiscal year, and the succeeding fiscal year;

(D) all expenditures, to the extent that information is available, for State restoration activities during the equivalent time period described in subparagraph (C); and

(E) a section that identifies and evaluates, based on need and appropriateness, specific opportunities to consolidate similar programs and activities within the budget and recommendations to Congress for legislative action to streamline, consolidate, or eliminate similar programs and activities within the budget;

(2) a detailed accounting of all funds received and obligated by each Federal agency for restoration activities during the current and preceding fiscal years, including the identification of funds that were transferred to a Chesapeake Bay State for restoration activities;

(3) to the extent that information is available, a detailed accounting from each State of all funds received and obligated from a Federal agency for restoration activities during the current and preceding fiscal years; and

(4) a description of each of the proposed Federal and State restoration activities to be carried out in the succeeding fiscal year (corresponding to those activities listed in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1)), including—

(A) the project description;

(B) the current status of the project;

(C) the Federal or State statutory or regulatory authority, program, or responsible agency;

(D) the authorization level for appropriations;

(E) the project timeline, including benchmarks;

(F) references to project documents;

(G) descriptions of risks and uncertainties of project implementation;

(H) a list of coordinating entities;

(I) a description of the funding history for the project;

(J) cost sharing; and

(K) alignment with the existing Chesapeake Bay Agreement, Chesapeake Executive Council goals and priorities, and Annual Action Plan required by section 205 of Executive Order 13508 (33 U.S.C. 1267 note; relating to Chesapeake Bay protection and restoration).

(b) **MINIMUM FUNDING LEVELS.**—In describing restoration activities in the report required under subsection (a), the Director shall only include—

(1) for the first 3 years that the report is required, descriptions of—

(A) Federal restoration activities that have funding amounts greater than or equal to \$300,000; and

(B) State restoration activities that have funding amounts greater than or equal to \$300,000; and

(2) for every year thereafter, descriptions of—

(A) Federal restoration activities that have funding amounts greater than or equal to \$100,000; and

(B) State restoration activities that have funding amounts greater than or equal to \$100,000.

(c) **DEADLINE.**—The Director shall submit to Congress the report required by subsection (a) not later than September 30 of each year.

(d) **REPORT.**—Copies of the report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations, Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Environment and Public Works, and Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall apply beginning with the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There shall be an Independent Evaluator for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, who shall review and report on—

(1) restoration activities; and

(2) any related topics that are suggested by the Chesapeake Executive Council.

(b) **APPOINTMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of submission of nominees by the Chesapeake Executive Council, the Independent Evaluator shall be appointed by the Administrator from among nominees submitted by the Chesapeake Executive Council with the consultation of the scientific community.

(2) **NOMINATIONS.**—The Chesapeake Executive Council may nominate for consideration as Independent Evaluator a science-based institution of higher education.

(3) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Administrator shall only select as Independent Evaluator a nominee that the Administrator determines demonstrates excellence in marine science, policy evaluation, or other studies relating to complex environmental restoration activities.

(c) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of appointment and once every 2 years thereafter, the Independent Evaluator shall submit to Congress a report describing the findings and recommendations of reviews conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON NEW FUNDING.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to commend Congressman WITTMAN, the author of the House companion bill, H.R. 739, which has already passed the House earlier in this Congress. I would like to thank him for his work for this government efficiency bill for the Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. WITTMAN is a true champion for the Chesapeake Bay, and this bill is another example of his effective leadership for the bay and his Virginia constituents.

Mr. Speaker, there are two parts to this bill, and I will let Mr. WITTMAN explain that, but I would like to comment also that while section 3(d) of the bill does not require that a copy of the financial report be submitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, it is our intent that the director should also transmit a copy to that committee.

Finally, I would like to thank Chairman SHUSTER of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for his assistance in scheduling this bill for floor consideration. I include in the RECORD the exchange of letters on S. 1000 between our two committees.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, December 5, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning S. 1000, the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014. S. 1000 contains provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring S. 1000 before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a referral of the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and would request that you insert our exchange of letters on this matter into the committee report on S. 1000 and the Congressional

Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 8, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding S. 1000, the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014.

I appreciate your willingness to forego a referral of this bill, and agree that by not exercising this authority for S. 1000, your committee is not prejudiced in any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in the bill or similar legislation that falls within the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Rule X jurisdiction.

As the Committee on Natural Resources won't be filing a report on S. 1000, I will instead be pleased to include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Chesapeake Bay is America's largest estuary, and restoration of the estuary will be an incredible conservation challenge. The Federal Government, States, localities, and conservation groups have spent billions of dollars to improve water quality, habitat, fisheries, recreational opportunities, and tributaries since the first Chesapeake Bay agreement was signed back in 1983; yet the water quality has continued to deteriorate.

The efforts have yielded some impressive successes, but by many metrics, the bay is still in poor health. This is due in large part to the fact that since bay cleanup began in earnest in the eighties, the population of the watershed has increased dramatically by more than one-third.

There is more wetland loss, more polluted runoff, and more nutrients in the wastewater and other sources entering the bay. In a sense, the bay is being loved to death by those who live near it.

President Obama's 2009 executive order on Chesapeake Bay protection and restoration has refocused Federal efforts, and that is a good thing; however, taxpayers and bay advocates deserve to know more about how and how much money is being spent.

S. 1000 would require the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget of Federal agency and State expenditures on bay restoration. This exercise will help identify areas where Bay partners can better coordinate or eliminate redundancy.

Mr. Speaker, this is commonsense legislation that will help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Chesapeake

Bay cleanup efforts. I would certainly congratulate the representative from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) for championing this cause and shepherding his version of this legislation through the House.

I would note that today I did hear on the radio that the Governor-elect of Maryland is proposing to further delay or undo some additional restrictions on the applications of chicken manure and other phosphate nitrogen-rich fertilizers that are contributing to the dramatic deterioration of the bay.

I would say this new Governor is being very shortsighted in terms of the benefits of the bay in total versus the small cost that would be imposed upon farmers to get these needed restrictions in place, and I would hope that he reconsiders and hears a lot about this from his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I support passage of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN). He is the gentleman who sponsored the House version of this legislation.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend and thank Chairman HASTINGS for all of his efforts and his support in bringing this legislation to the floor. We would not be where we are today without his leadership, and it has been a true pleasure and honor to serve with him during his time as chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Chairman, you have been a tireless champion for preserving our Nation's bountiful natural resources. We thank you so much for the legacy that you have left in leadership, but also for the improvements that you have made in this Nation's natural resources, and I wish you all the best.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1000 is the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014. I am the author of the House companion legislation, H.R. 739, which has already passed the House earlier this Congress and in previous sessions of Congress.

The Chesapeake Bay is the economic and cultural backbone of our region, and it is one of our Nation's most prized natural resources. Many activities are currently underway to clean up the bay, but without a coordinated effort, it is impossible to ascertain the effectiveness of these programs or to accurately gauge their success.

The restoration effort includes multiple Federal agencies and also includes six States and the District of Columbia, as well as more than 1,000 localities and multiple nongovernmental operations.

While the drive and determination to restore the bay is shared by all of these entities, the effort can be muddled due to the complexity of various participants. As we have seen, we have taken in some instances steps forward, but in some instances, those steps have not

been forthcoming with other efforts. We need to make sure that every effort is indeed making progress on restoring the bay.

□ 1230

At the same time as we look at those efforts, it is difficult to pinpoint exactly where and how much money is being spent across this wide scope of bay restoration activities. To remedy this, we must ensure that Federal, State, and local efforts are not working at cross-purposes and that the restoration effort, as a whole, is coordinated and efficient. Today, when we are in a resource-challenged environment, we must get the most out of the dollars we spend to restore the bay.

This simple legislation would require a crosscut budget to ensure Federal dollars currently spent on bay restoration activities produce results and ensure that we are coordinating how restoration dollars are being spent. That coordination at the local, State, and Federal level is critical to make sure that we demonstrate results and that we continue those efforts that have proven to be successful. It is also critical to make sure that we are not duplicating efforts or unnecessarily spending money in areas that are not producing results.

Second, the bill would require the appointment of an independent evaluator to review restoration activities in the watershed. The Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act is a smart, commonsense piece of legislation that will lead to better spending decisions and better government, which will ensure that more resources are available to help restore the Nation's largest estuary, the Chesapeake Bay.

This has been a truly cooperative effort, and I am very grateful for the leadership of Senator MARK WARNER and Senator TIM KAINE as champions of Chesapeake Bay restoration. I would also like to thank my fellow Virginia Representatives FRANK WOLF, JIM MORAN, BOBBY SCOTT, GERRY CONNOLLY, and SCOTT RIGELL—as well as CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland—and Congressman RANDY FORBES for their consistent support in getting this bill through the House.

I first introduced this bill in 2008, and it has been a difficult road to get to where we are now, but the Chesapeake Bay, too, has had a difficult road. With the House passage today, Mr. Speaker, we will be one step closer to the next chapter of the Chesapeake Bay's long history of efforts to restore her to her previous bounty.

Today, we see that the economic foundation of our region remains vested in the Chesapeake Bay, and it continues to be a national treasure. We hope that with today's efforts it will continue to be enjoyed for generations and generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Chesapeake Bay and this commonsense bill.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to adopt this very hard bill that went through arduous examination from all aspects, and I commend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) for his work on it.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1000.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE EXPANSION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5699) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5699

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act".

SEC. 2. JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE LAND ACQUISITION.

(a) *ACQUISITION.*—The Secretary of the Interior may acquire by donation the approximately 44 acres of land, and interests in such land, that are identified on the map entitled "John Muir National Historic Site Proposed Boundary Expansion", numbered 426/127150, and dated November, 2014.

(b) *BOUNDARY.*—Upon the acquisition of the land authorized by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall adjust the boundaries of the John Muir Historic Site in Martinez, California, to include the land identified on the map referred to in subsection (a).

(c) *ADMINISTRATION.*—The land and interests in land acquired under subsection (a) shall be administered as part of the John Muir National Historic Site established by the Act of August 31, 1964 (Public Law 88-547; 78 Stat. 753; 16 U.S.C. 461 note).

(d) *DATE CERTAIN.*—The authority provided in subsections (a), (b), and (c) shall apply only if the lands identified on the map entitled "John Muir National Historic Site Proposed Boundary Expansion" are held in title by the Muir Heritage Land Trust by May 31, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the John Muir Historic Site was established in 1964 and currently consists of 345 acres in Martinez, California. H.R. 5699 allows the National Park Service to accept the donation of 44 acres of property adjacent to the John Muir National Historic Site. This donation will enhance the recreational value of the existing park by creating new opportunities for visitors. It is a good bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. MILLER on this legislation. H.R. 5699 will authorize the National Park Service to expand the boundary of the John Muir National Historic Site and acquire, by donation, 44 acres of land from the Muir Heritage Land Trust. It will expand the site and help carry on Muir's legacy of conservation and environmental stewardship.

John Muir is an important historic figure to me and to millions of other Americans in terms of his advocacy for the environment. Obviously, we owe him a great debt of gratitude for many, many of the actions of his legacy—Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks, and he also founded the Sierra Club back in the early part of the last century. This bill will contribute to his legacy and help protect and conserve the place where he found solace and inspiration in his later years.

It was interesting to me. I read an article that I would describe as sort of ascribing 21st century political correctness on the part of a few historians—one from UCLA, one from Stanford, and one person from the Center for Biological Diversity—essentially criticizing and denying the legacy of John Muir and using a 21st century politically correct backwards telescope to look at it. It is just extraordinary to me that there are people like that who exist. Sure, he didn't live up to 21st century political correctness, and he certainly couldn't have predicted the phenomenal growth of the Western United States and the need for amenities that relate to the environment in major urban areas, but what he saved is an extraordinary gift enjoyed by millions of Americans and people from around the entire world every year. I just have to say to those people that they are a bit misguided.

With that, I want to congratulate my friend and colleague Representative

GEORGE MILLER on this. Obviously, this is coming at the end of an extraordinary career of service to America and protecting our environment for future generations. I think it is really, really appropriate that Mr. MILLER is moving this bill to help perpetuate the legacy of someone else who, at a much earlier time, also contributed phenomenally to our public resources and assets.

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their help in bringing this bill to the floor. It has been subject to negotiations that didn't end until just a couple of weeks ago, and fortunately, we have this time for Congress to consider it. It is a very simple bill that will greatly benefit our national park system by expanding the John Muir National Historic Site in my congressional district in Martinez at no cost to the Federal Government.

The Muir Historic Site is a terrific resource for people living in and visiting the bay area. Thousands and thousands and thousands of people come to the historic site every year. Schoolchildren visit it on a regular basis, and certainly visitors from Scotland come to the site to learn about this rather remarkable native of Scotland who stirred up so much activity in the United States.

As Ranking Member DEFAZIO pointed out, he was absolutely key to the founding and existence of Yosemite National Park and Sequoia National Park. In fact, he left his home site that is part of this park and walked to the Sierras to explore the Sierras and to live in them and to write about them. Some of his most famous books were written on those journeys.

This land, what we know locally as the Plummer Ranch, is contiguous to the John Muir National Historic Site. It was once part of a ranch owned by John Swett. John Swett was a very close friend of John Muir. There are many historic pictures of them together. John Swett was, in fact, the father of the California public school system. They spent a great deal of time in this area, both farming, farming fruit and grapes and other agricultural products, and were very close friends. So this donation by the Muir Heritage Land Trust to the Federal Government, if we accept it, will bring these two pillars of California's history together, linking the physical connectedness of their ranches. It will connect this area to Mount Wanda, which was named after John Muir's daughter. He used to have orchards at the top and side of Mount Wanda.

So this is really a win-win for the historic community, and it is a win-win for this historic site which is visited by so many people. It is a win for the taxpayers since the money was raised locally to purchase this land

from the original owner and to provide it in donation to the National Park Service. With the passage of this bill, that transaction will be completed. It will expand this park. The Nation will have the benefit of this additional historic asset to the site for people to visit and to understand.

Again, I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS for making time for this legislation in his committee's jurisdiction and deliberations, and my good friend PETER DEFAZIO for allowing me to present this on the floor. Thank you so much to both of you.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "aye" on this matter.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation. I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5699, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5086) to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5086

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"() CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Standing Bear Trail, extending approximately 550 miles from Niobrara, Nebraska, to Ponca City, Oklahoma, which follows the route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people during Federal Indian removal, and approximately 550 miles from Ponca City, Oklahoma, through Omaha, Nebraska, to Niobrara, Nebraska, which follows the return route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the

Ponca people, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail Feasibility Study', numbered 903/125,630, and dated November 2014.

"(B) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map described in subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Department of the Interior.

"(C) COMPONENTS.—The feasibility study conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include a determination on whether the Chief Standing Bear Trail meets the criteria in subsection (b) of for designation as a national historic trail."

(b) TIMELINE.—The feasibility study authorized by the amendment in subsection (a) shall be completed not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5086, authored by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail.

The proposed trail would extend approximately 550 miles between Nebraska and Oklahoma, following the route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people during the Federal Indian removal. The trail would also commemorate the chief's return to Nebraska and subsequent trial in 1879 when he became the first Native American to be recognized as a person in a Federal court decision. It is a good piece of legislation. I urge its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5086 directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail in Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Kansas. The trail extends 550 miles following the same route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people during Federal Indian removal in 1877 and their subsequent return to Nebraska.

Chief Standing Bear played an important role in American history. He was the first Native American recognized by the United States Government as a person under law, following his arrest

and ensuing trial for leaving his reservation in Oklahoma without permission.

Chief Standing Bear was honoring his son's dying wish to be buried in the land of his birth and traveled with his son's remains, along with 20 other members of his tribe, through harsh conditions from Oklahoma back to their ancestral lands in Nebraska.

□ 1245

Unfortunately, at that time, leaving the reservation was a violation of law.

At the very least, 135 years later, it is only right that we look into the feasibility of including this trail as part of the National Historic Trails system, to reflect on a not-so-proud period of American history in our country when Native Americans were treated as second-class citizens and honor the courage of Chief Standing Bear in living up to the promise he had made to his son.

I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for advancing this legislation, and Representative FORTENBERRY for his leadership on this bill.

I support passage, and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), the author of this legislation.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources for his leadership on this issue and for his many, many years of devoted service to this body. We will miss you. All the best in the future. Thank you so much for your service.

Let me also thank the ranking member, Mr. DEFazio, for his support on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study for the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail.

Why is this important? Because, as has already been mentioned, Chief Standing Bear holds a special place in Native American, as well as United States history. Establishing a trail in his name would be an outstanding way to recognize his deep contribution to the well-being of our country.

I would like to provide some additional background on this extraordinary individual who, again, prevailed in one of the most important court cases for Native Americans in our country's history.

Chief Standing Bear was a Ponca chief. In the 1800s, the Ponca tribe made its home in the Niobrara River Valley in the area of northeast Nebraska. In 1877, the United States Government pressured the Poncas from their homeland, compelling them to move to Indian territory in Oklahoma.

Not wanting to subject his people to a confrontation with the government,

Standing Bear obliged and led them from their homes to their new reservation in Oklahoma. That journey was particularly harsh and the new land was inhospitable. Nearly a third of the tribe died along the way from starvation, malaria, and other illness, including Standing Bear's own daughter, Prairie Flower, and later, his son named Bear Shield.

Standing Bear had promised Bear Shield that he would bury him back home, back home in their native land in the Niobrara River Valley of northeast Nebraska. Embarking on that trip in the winter of 1878, Standing Bear led a group of Poncas. When they reached the Omaha reservation, the United States Army stopped Standing Bear and arrested him for leaving Oklahoma without permission. He was then taken to Fort Omaha and held there to stand trial.

In the meantime, Standing Bear's plight actually attracted national attention; first, in the predecessor to the current Omaha World Herald, the Omaha Daily Herald, which is our local newspaper back home, and through that, the story became well publicized.

At the conclusion of his 2-day trial, Standing Bear himself was allowed to speak. In doing so, he raised his hand, Mr. Speaker, and he had this to say:

That hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand, you will feel pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be the same color as yours. I am a man. God made us both.

With those profound words, Mr. Speaker, on that late spring day in 1879, I believe that Chief Standing Bear expressed the most profound of American sentiments: the belief in the inherent dignity and, therefore, rights of all persons, no matter their ethnicity, no matter their color. To the credit of Judge Elmer Dundy, he ruled then that Native Americans were full persons within the meaning of the law for the first time in that trial.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the story of the great Ponca chief is a story of strength and grace and dignity in the protection of the most basic of human rights. I also believe it is a story that needs to be told again and again, understood, and cherished by all Americans of coming generations.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the establishment of the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail would honor both his courage and legacy, the legacy of this brave individual, and his contribution to the civil liberties of our Nation.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support the bill and, again, thank the gentlemen for their support as well.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5086, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1204. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2719. An act to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2521. An act to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security.

WESTERN OREGON INDIAN TRIBAL LANDS ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5701) to require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of federally recognized tribes in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5701

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Western Oregon Indian Tribal Lands Act".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—RESERVATION OF CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

Sec. 101. Additional lands for reservation.

TITLE II—OREGON COASTAL LANDS

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Definitions.

Sec. 203. Conveyance.

Sec. 204. Map and legal description.

Sec. 205. Administration.

Sec. 206. Land reclassification.

TITLE III—COW CREEK UMPQUA LAND CONVEYANCE

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Definitions.

Sec. 303. Conveyance.

Sec. 304. Map and legal description.

Sec. 305. Administration.

Sec. 306. Land reclassification.

TITLE IV—SILETZ TRIBE INDIAN RESTORATION ACT

Sec. 401. Purpose; clarification.

Sec. 402. Treatment of certain property of the Siletz tribe of the State of Oregon.

TITLE V—AMENDMENTS TO COQUILLE RESTORATION ACT

Sec. 501. Amendments to Coquille Restoration Act.

TITLE I—RESERVATION OF CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

SEC. 101. ADDITIONAL LANDS FOR RESERVATION.

Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to establish a reservation for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and for other purposes,” approved September 9, 1988 (Public Law 100-425; 102 Stat. 1594; 102 Stat. 2939; 104 Stat. 207; 106 Stat. 3255; 108 Stat. 708; 108 Stat. 4566; 112 Stat. 1896), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “Subject to valid” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid”; and

(B) by adding after paragraph (1) (as designated by subparagraph (A)) the following:

“(2) ADDITIONAL TRUST ACQUISITIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept title to any additional number of acres of real property located within the boundaries of the original 1857 reservation of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon established by Executive order dated June 30, 1857, comprised of land within the political boundaries of Polk and Yamhill Counties, Oregon, if that real property is conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by or on behalf of the Tribe.

“(B) TREATMENT OF TRUST LAND.—

“(i) Applications to take land into trust within the boundaries of the original 1857 reservation shall be treated by the Secretary as an on-reservation trust acquisition.

“(ii) Any real property taken into trust under this paragraph shall not be eligible, or used, for any Class II or Class III gaming activity carried out under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), except for real property within 2 miles of the gaming facility in existence on the date of enactment of this paragraph that is located on State Highway 18 in the Grand Ronde community of Oregon.

“(C) RESERVATION.—All real property taken into trust within those boundaries at any time after September 9, 1988, shall be part of the reservation of the Tribe.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding the table, by striking “in subsection (a) are approximately 10,311.60” and inserting “in subsection (a)(1) are approximately 11,349.92”; and

(B) in the table—

(i) by striking the following:

“6	7	8	Tax lot 800	5.55”;
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and inserting the following:

“6	7	7, 8, 17, 18	Former tax lot 800, located within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8; NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17; and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18	5.55”;
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(ii) in the acres column of the last item added by section 2(a)(1) of Public Law 103-445 (108 Stat. 4566), by striking “240” and inserting “241.06”; and

(iii) by striking all text after

“6	7	18	E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	43.42”;
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and inserting the following:

“6	8	1	W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	20.6
6	8	1	N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	19.99
6	8	1	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	9.99
6	8	1	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	10.46
6	8	1	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	12.99
6	7	6	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	37.39
6	7	5	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	24.87
6	7	5, 8	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5; and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8	109.9
6	8	1	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	31.32
6	8	1	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	8.89
6	8	1	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	78.4
6	7	8, 17	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8; and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17	14.33
6	7	17	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	6.68
6	8	12	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	8.19
6	8	1	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	2.0
6	8	1	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	5.05
6	8	12	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$	54.64
6	7	17, 18	SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17; and SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18	136.83
6	8	1	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	20.08
6	7	5	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	97.38
4	7	31	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	159.60
6	7	17	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	3.14
6	8	12	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	1.10
6	7	8	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	0.92
6	8	12	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	1.99
6	7	7	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7; and	
6	8	12	S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12	86.48
6	8	12	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	1.56
6	7	6	W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6; and	
6	8	1	E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1	35.82
6	7	5	E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	19.88
6	8	12	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	0.29
6	8	1	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	2.5
6	7	8	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	7.16
6	8	1	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	5.5
6	8	1	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	1.34
			Total	11,349.92”.

TITLE II—OREGON COASTAL LANDS

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Oregon Coastal Lands Act”.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CONFEDERATED TRIBES.—The term “Confederated Tribes” means the Confederated

Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

(2) OREGON COASTAL LAND.—The term “Oregon Coastal land” means the approximately 14,408 acres of land, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Oregon Coastal Land Conveyance” and dated March 27, 2013.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 203. CONVEYANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, including rights-of-way, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Oregon Coastal land, including

any improvements located on the land, appurtenances to the land, and minerals on or in the land, including oil and gas, shall be—

(1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Confederated Tribes; and

(2) part of the reservation of the Confederated Tribes.

(b) **SURVEY.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a survey of the boundary lines to establish the boundaries of the land taken into trust under subsection (a).

SEC. 204. MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of the Oregon Coastal land with—

(1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(b) **FORCE AND EFFECT.**—The map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical or typographical errors in the map or legal description.

(c) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Secretary.

SEC. 205. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Unless expressly provided in this title, nothing in this title affects any right or claim of the Confederated Tribes existing on the date of enactment of this Act to any land or interest in land.

(b) **PROHIBITIONS.**—

(1) **EXPORTS OF UNPROCESSED LOGS.**—Federal law (including regulations) relating to the export of unprocessed logs harvested from Federal land shall apply to any unprocessed logs that are harvested from the Oregon Coastal land taken into trust under section 203.

(2) **NON-PERMISSIBLE USE OF LAND.**—Any real property taken into trust under section 203 shall not be eligible, or used, for any gaming activity carried out under Public Law 100-497 (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

(c) **LAWS APPLICABLE TO COMMERCIAL FORESTRY ACTIVITY.**—Any commercial forestry activity that is carried out on the Oregon Coastal land taken into trust under section 203 shall be managed in accordance with all applicable Federal laws.

(d) **AGREEMENTS.**—The Confederated Tribes shall consult with the Secretary and other parties as necessary to develop agreements to provide for access to the Oregon Coastal land taken into trust under section 203 that provide for—

(1) honoring existing reciprocal right-of-way agreements;

(2) administrative access by the Bureau of Land Management; and

(3) management of the Oregon Coastal land that are acquired or developed under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 et seq.), consistent with section 8(f)(3) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 4601-8(f)(3)).

(e) **LAND USE PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.**—Except as provided in subsection (c), once the Oregon Coastal land is taken into trust under section 203, the land shall not be subject to the land use planning requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181a et seq.).

SEC. 206. LAND RECLASSIFICATION.

(a) **IDENTIFICATION OF OREGON AND CALIFORNIA RAILROAD GRANT LAND.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary shall identify any Oregon and California Railroad grant land that is held in

trust by the United States for the benefit of the Confederated Tribes under section 203.

(b) **IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLIC DOMAIN LAND.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall identify public domain land in the State of Oregon that—

(1) is approximately equal in acreage and condition as the Oregon and California Railroad grant land identified under subsection (a); and

(2) is located in the vicinity of the Oregon and California Railroad grant land.

(c) **MAPS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and publish in the Federal Register one or more maps depicting the land identified in subsections (a) and (b).

(d) **RECLASSIFICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Secretary shall reclassify the land identified in subsection (b) as Oregon and California Railroad grant land.

(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—The Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181a et seq.), shall apply to land reclassified as Oregon and California Railroad grant land under paragraph (1).

TITLE III—COW CREEK UMPQUA LAND CONVEYANCE

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Cow Creek Umpqua Land Conveyance Act”.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **COUNCIL CREEK LAND.**—The term “Council Creek land” means the approximately 17,519 acres of land, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Canyon Mountain Land Conveyance” and dated June 27, 2013.

(2) **TRIBE.**—The term “Tribe” means the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 303. CONVEYANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, including rights-of-way, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Council Creek land, including any improvements located on the land, appurtenances to the land, and minerals on or in the land, including oil and gas, shall be—

(1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe; and

(2) part of the reservation of the Tribe.

(b) **SURVEY.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a survey of the boundary lines to establish the boundaries of the land taken into trust under subsection (a).

SEC. 304. MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of the Council Creek land with—

(1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(b) **FORCE AND EFFECT.**—The map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical or typographical errors in the map or legal description.

(c) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Secretary.

SEC. 305. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Unless expressly provided in this title, nothing in this title affects any right or claim of the Tribe existing on the date of enactment of this Act to any land or interest in land.

(b) **PROHIBITIONS.**—

(1) **EXPORTS OF UNPROCESSED LOGS.**—Federal law (including regulations) relating to the export of unprocessed logs harvested from Federal land shall apply to any unprocessed logs that are harvested from the Council Creek land.

(2) **NON-PERMISSIBLE USE OF LAND.**—Any real property taken into trust under section 303 shall not be eligible, or used, for any gaming activity carried out under Public Law 100-497 (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

(c) **FOREST MANAGEMENT.**—Any forest management activity that is carried out on the Council Creek land shall be managed in accordance with all applicable Federal laws.

SEC. 306. LAND RECLASSIFICATION.

(a) **IDENTIFICATION OF OREGON AND CALIFORNIA RAILROAD GRANT LAND.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary shall identify any Oregon and California Railroad grant land that is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe under section 303.

(b) **IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLIC DOMAIN LAND.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall identify public domain land in the State of Oregon that—

(1) is approximately equal in acreage and condition as the Oregon and California Railroad grant land identified under subsection (a); and

(2) is located in the vicinity of the Oregon and California Railroad grant land.

(c) **MAPS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and publish in the Federal Register one or more maps depicting the land identified in subsections (a) and (b).

(d) **RECLASSIFICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Secretary shall reclassify the land identified in subsection (b) as Oregon and California Railroad grant land.

(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—The Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181a et seq.), shall apply to land reclassified as Oregon and California Railroad grant land under paragraph (1).

TITLE IV—SILETZ TRIBE INDIAN RESTORATION ACT

SEC. 401. PURPOSE; CLARIFICATION.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this title is to facilitate fee-to-trust applications for the Siletz Tribe within the geographic area specified in the amendment made by this title.

(b) **CLARIFICATION.**—Except as specifically provided otherwise by this title or the amendment made by this title, nothing in this title or the amendment made by this title, shall prioritize for any purpose the claims of any federally recognized Indian tribe over the claims of any other federally recognized Indian tribe.

SEC. 402. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OF THE SILETZ TRIBE OF THE STATE OF OREGON.

Section 7 of the Siletz Tribe Indian Restoration Act (25 U.S.C. 711e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(A) **TITLE.**—The Secretary may accept title to any additional number of acres of real property located within the boundaries of the original 1855 Siletz Coast Reservation established by Executive order dated November 9, 1855, comprised of land within the political boundaries of Benton, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, Tillamook, and Yamhill Counties in the State of Oregon, if that real property is conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by or on behalf of the tribe.

“(B) **TRUST.**—Land to which title is accepted by the Secretary under this paragraph shall be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the tribe.

“(2) TREATMENT AS PART OF RESERVATION.—All real property that is taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be considered and evaluated as an on-reservation acquisition under part 151.10 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

“(B) become part of the reservation of the tribe.

“(3) PROHIBITION ON GAMING.—Any real property taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall not be eligible, or used, for any gaming activity carried out under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).”.

TITLE V—AMENDMENTS TO COQUILLE RESTORATION ACT

SEC. 501. AMENDMENTS TO COQUILLE RESTORATION ACT.

Section 5(d) of the Coquille Restoration Act (25 U.S.C. 715c(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) MANAGEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, shall manage the Coquille Forest in accordance with the laws pertaining to the management of Indian trust land.

“(B) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(i) UNPROCESSED LOGS.—Unprocessed logs harvested from the Coquille Forest shall be subject to the same Federal statutory restrictions on export to foreign nations that apply to unprocessed logs harvested from Federal land.

“(ii) SALES OF TIMBER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all sales of timber from land subject to this subsection shall be advertised, offered, and awarded according to competitive bidding practices, with sales being awarded to the highest responsible bidder.”;

(2) by striking paragraph (9); and

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (12) as paragraphs (9) through (11), respectively.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to acknowledge the gentlemen from Oregon, Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. WALDEN, for their hard work on this piece of legislation, which will benefit several Indian tribes in the State of Oregon.

H.R. 5701 is a compilation of several stand-alone bills, most of which have been reported out of the Natural Resources Committee and passed by the full House.

Title I of H.R. 5701 would ease the process for the Grand Ronde Tribe to

apply for trust land within the original boundaries of its 1857 reservation, which encompassed 60,000-plus-acre acres in Polk and Yamhill Counties in Oregon.

Further, the bill deems property placed in trust for the tribe after 1988 to be part of the tribe's reservation.

Finally, specific tracts of land totaling 288 acres would be placed in trust for the tribe in its former reservation.

Mr. Speaker, title I is identical to H.R. 841, which previously passed the House.

Title II and title III are similar to provisions found in H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act, which passed the House in September of 2014.

Title IV would make it easier for the Siletz Indian Tribe to apply for trust land within the original boundaries of the 1855 Siletz Coast Reservation, which encompassed a large part of the coast of Oregon. Gaming on this land to be held in trust would be prohibited. This is identical to the Natural Resources Committee-reported version of H.R. 931.

Finally, title V would correct a situation with respect to the management of the Coquille Tribal Forest in Oregon. This forest has been regulated as part of the Northwest Forest Plan, which is inconsistent with the management of other tribally-managed forests in the United States. Under this title, the Coquille Tribe would be able to manage its forest under the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act. This will provide the tribe with the ability to better manage their timber resources.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation, as I mentioned, encompassing three other pieces of legislation that the House and/or the committee has already acted on.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is the last in the series of bills from the Resources Committee and, perhaps, the last time that I will be on the floor as ranking member and Chairman HASTINGS will be on the floor as chairman.

I just want to thank my colleague from Washington State for all of the work we have done together. We obviously don't always agree on issues, but I think the Resources Committee has reported out more bills and passed more bills in the House than any other committee in this Congress. We have been very active. We are hoping that the Senate will go along with a few that we have pending, and we will get some of those bills enacted into law.

In particular, I want to thank the chairman for his partnership on an issue absolutely critical to the Pacific Northwest, which is the management of the Columbia River system and the Bonneville Power Administration, in the phenomenal gift of that clean and inexpensive power to our region and to the Western U.S. generally.

We have some major issues looming, in particular, the negotiation or renegotiation or termination of the treaty with Canada regarding the Columbia River Treaty. A session that the chairman held in his district in Washington State on a cold day in February was, I think, very critical in helping move that discussion and debate in a productive direction for all the stakeholders and was particularly critical for a position of our region in this negotiation.

I am only hopeful that we will soon get the attention of the State Department and whomever else they have seen fit to involve in this process and have a recommendation from the State Department regarding modification or termination of that treaty so we can enter into meaningful negotiations with the Canadians. The gentleman played a particularly key role in that, and I want to thank him for that and, obviously, a lot of other work on forestry and other issues.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Since you opened up commending Doc HASTINGS for his career in the Congress, I want to join you in that. We were both discussing yesterday that we started our careers battling over California water when he came to the Congress and when I came to the Congress, and on the last days of our legislative action we will, once again, be discussing California water. Those are the twists and the turns that this place takes with legislation.

But I want to thank him for his service and leadership of the Resources Committee. He knows how dear those issues are to me in many years of service on that committee. Thank you for your fairness in dealing with a lot of the issues. As Mr. DEFAZIO pointed out, it wasn't about whether we always agreed, but it was about whether or not you could work with one another with some respect and figure out where you could get together on particular issues.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, for too long, Federal policies have unfairly disadvantaged Indian tribes in western Oregon and, obviously, elsewhere around the country. After signing many treaties with the western Oregon tribes, the United States removed them from their original homelands throughout the western part of the State and put them on only two reservations, which were established at the time to house potentially people from more than 60 tribal governments.

Many of the tribes confederated on these reservations far from their ancestral homes. Other tribes refused to leave their ancestral homes and were basically forgotten by the United States, despite its promises that it had made in treaty agreements with them.

Later, in 1954, one of the darkest chapters was when all but one of the

Oregon tribes west of the Cascade Mountains lost their Federal recognition in the Western Oregon Termination Act.

□ 1300

The termination era, as scholars call it, was terrible Federal Indian policy. It was so bad that it was only 30 years later that it was formally rebuked by Congress.

Starting in the seventies, Congress began the process of restoring the western Oregon tribes to Federal recognition and of cleaning up the mess that the United States Government made in western Oregon. In fact, I began my congressional career as an original sponsor of the Coquille Restoration Act, legislation to restore one of Oregon's terminated tribes. I partnered with then-Senator Mark Hatfield on that legislation, which was later enacted into law.

While six Oregon tribes are now federally recognized, it remains difficult for these tribes to function as the sovereign nations they are and to govern themselves as effectively as they could.

Shifts in Federal Indian policy have made it time-consuming and expensive for western Oregon tribes—and other tribes around the country—and the Department of the Interior to work together on land-into-trust issues. These policy shifts have also deprived two of the tribes of sufficient land bases, and it has created a legal anomaly with regard to the Coquille Indian Tribe's forest.

H.R. 5701, the Western Oregon Indian Tribal Lands Act, is a long overdue, no-cost, commonsense bill that will go a long way to helping resolve some of the problems the Federal Government and its policy shifts over more than a century have created for the western Oregon tribes.

This legislation clarifies on-reservation land-into-trust procedures for the Grand Ronde and Siletz tribes, so the tribes don't have to face outrageous delays in dealing with the Department of the Interior. The bill also makes good on decades-old promises to restore land bases for the Coos and Cow Creek tribes, and it puts the Coquille Indian Tribe's forest on an equal footing with those of other Indian tribes nationwide.

H.R. 5701 deals only with Oregon issues, Oregon tribes, and Oregon constituents. All of the provisions in this Oregon tribal bill have received some form of consideration by both the House and the Senate. This package also enjoys bipartisan, bicameral support, the rarest of rare things, I would say, in Washington, D.C., these days.

I strongly encourage my colleagues here in the House to join with me in passing this legislation swiftly, so we can get it over to the Senate and hopefully get the Senate to act before the hopefully soon-looming adjournment of the 113th Congress.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I commended two of my colleagues from Oregon for their work on this, Mr. WALDEN and Mr. DEFAZIO. I failed to mention Mr. SCHRADER, who was the author of H.R. 931, which is title IV of this bill. I want to correct that oversight that I made.

I want to thank my two colleagues for their very kind words. This will, I think, be the last time that I have the opportunity to manage a bill on the floor. I will just say that both gentlemen made the observation that while we don't always agree on things, at least we can understand when somebody comes from a particular position, you can deal with that.

I want to take this time then to correct an assertion that my friend from Oregon made when I had my portrait unveiled. I say that because I think most of my colleagues know my position on wilderness areas is probably contrary to what their vision is.

I want to correct the record because Mr. DEFAZIO asserted that my position on wilderness areas was because, as a child, I was lost in the wilderness when we were camping. I thought that was very clever, but it is not the truth, and so while what he said is not on the record, I get the last word here and will say on the record that I was not lost in the wilderness and that is not how I derived my position on wilderness areas.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to yield back if the gentleman from Oregon is prepared to yield back, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

You forgot I reserved, Doc, so I do get to respond.

I have to say we were looking for a logical reason for what I would say is your recalcitrance to further create wilderness so that areas may remain undisturbed for future generations. I thought that was potentially a plausible reason.

In fact, it was so plausible that the next day in the gym a Republican Member who was there that didn't know either me or you that well asked if that indeed was a true story. I played him along for just a brief period of time and said, "No." I appreciate that you have corrected the record.

In the NDAA bill, we also did do a wilderness package as it relates to your State and some other wilderness bills that I think were very bipartisan and reasonable. I appreciate the fact you supported that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I will just simply say it has been a pleasure for me to have worked with you in your position as ranking member, and I wish you the best as you move over to be the ranking member of T&I in the next Congress.

This is a good piece of legislation. As the gentleman from Oregon mentioned several times, tribal issues, particu-

larly in Oregon, are somewhat contentious. I am somewhat familiar with that because I do go to the Oregon coast at least every other year.

I congratulate my colleagues from Oregon for this legislation, urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5701, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5781) to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. George Miller of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5781 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE IV—PRESERVING FISHING INDUSTRY JOBS AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMY AND PROTECTING EXISTING WATER RIGHTS PRIORITIES IN WESTERN STATES AND TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

SEC. 401. PRESERVING FISHING INDUSTRY JOBS AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMY.

Nothing in this Act shall adversely impact the commercial or sport fishing industries of California, Oregon, or Washington or any population of west coast salmon.

SEC. 402. PROTECTING EXISTING WATER RIGHTS PRIORITIES IN WESTERN STATES.

Provisions in this Act changing the relative priority of water rights in California shall not create any legal precedent for any other State.

SEC. 403. PROTECTING TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY.

Nothing in this Act shall undermine Native American tribal sovereignty, or reduce the quantity or quality of the water available to affected Indian tribes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to this bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will proceed immediately to final passage as amended.

There is no question that the underlying bill is controversial, but whenever you stand on the goals of this bill, it is clear that it was not drafted properly. That is no surprise. It was introduced just a week ago and did not go through the normal legislative process. It did not receive a hearing or a markup.

On top of that, the sponsors of the bill failed to consult the interested parties. They didn't consult the fishermen, both commercial and sports fishermen; duck hunters; and others who are deeply impacted by this bill, such as the thousands of farmers who are farming hundreds of thousands of acres and millions of dollars in crops.

They didn't consult the water agencies that are responsible for delivering safe and clean drinking water to the Western States and to many in my district. They didn't consult the tribes whose rights may very well be affected by this legislation. They didn't even consult the Members of Congress from this great delta, the largest delta of the Pacific Ocean. They didn't even consult the Members with direct interest in this legislation.

In fact, it was only when Senator BARBARA BOXER insisted that there be transparency in the process and that we be given copies of the bill that negotiations were called off and Senator FEINSTEIN said that she would take up this bill next year under regular order.

Where does that leave us? With a bill intended to help one region of California at the expense of endangered species that could end up hurting millions of dollars' worth of commercial fishing interests, farmers, tribes, and neighboring States.

My amendment would fix that. First, it clarifies that nothing in this bill would adversely impact the fishing industries in California, Oregon, or Washington. Without this clarification, the bill would result in exporting additional water, which would devastate the salmon population and harm thousands of small businesses and commercial fishermen.

Second, my bill would clarify that this bill would not create a precedent of impacting water rights in other States. This bill is a major rewrite of California's water rights, plain and simple. Most notably, under existing State water rights, the bill's increased pumping for the Central Valley Project would require a reduction in State water project pumping; yet the bill specifically mandates that the water supply for the State water project cannot be reduced, contrary to California law.

This will mean that a small subgroup of water users in California will get a higher priority access to water than they are entitled to under their contracts.

Finally, my amendment clarifies that the bill protects tribal sovereignty and won't reduce the quality and quantity of water provided to the Indian tribes under the Federal Government's tribal trust obligations.

To give you one example of a tribe that could be harmed by this legislation, the Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County is dependent on water from the Trinity River. Their economy is dependent upon it, their fisheries are dependent upon it, and the tourism of the tribe is dependent upon the water of this river.

We already saw this year emergency water releases from the Trinity River to prevent mass fish kills. If the water is all pumped out of the dam before then, the problem is there won't be any to help the tribe or to help other parts of the economy lower in the State.

Truly, the House should reject this radical, ill-conceived bill. At a minimum, we should pass my amendment that would ensure that the reckless actions of this bill's sponsors do not result in significant harm to our tribes, fishermen, and neighboring States.

One of the rationales for passing this bill by the supporters of it is that this water just flows to the ocean, that is sort of the way God created the plain; but the fact of the matter is it doesn't just flow to the ocean.

As it goes to the ocean, as it leaves the Sierra mountains and comes down the State, it goes past the cities of Sacramento, Concord, and Pittsburg, where hundreds of thousands of people live and depend upon it for their drinking water supply—clean water.

It goes past the United States Steel mill that uses and needs clean water for steel production. It goes past the DuPont chemical facility that needs clean water for production. It mixes with the saltwater in the Suisun Marsh which allows fish to survive the difference between saltwater and freshwater.

It provides all of those kinds of benefits and jobs for hundreds and thousands of people in the industries that are located in the delta and that are located there because of the delta.

Finally, if there is no water, it does not flow to the ocean. That seems to be some kind of indictment against the river systems of California, that it flows to the ocean. If it doesn't flow to the ocean, then the salmon can't get out into the bay, they can't get out into the ocean, and the incoming salmon can't get up to spawn for the next generation.

What happens when that happens? It means that in Oregon and Washington, it will affect the runs that come up here and provide for commercial fishing; that provide for sport fishing; that provide for recreation; that provide for tourism; that provide revenues to the States in terms of fishing licenses, revenues to all of the States, like California. It provides for the wetlands, for duck hunters, and preserves one of the great byways.

That is not just going to the ocean. That is an incredibly important water system. A small group of farmers here want to take it all for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I just simply want to say that we kind of alluded to California water in just a prior exchange. Yes, it is complicated, but I want to be very, very specific.

□ 1315

The bill under consideration today is a short-term fix to something that needs a long-term fix. And the gentleman made a number of arguments, but I think the gentleman failed to read the bill because there are two specific sections in there that are contrary to what he is asserting would happen. Those are section 203 and section 301.

Let me try to be as concise as I can on what this legislation does and why it is important to pass it out of this Congress. This legislation, to cut to the chase, simply says that during rainy periods—California is getting rain right now. They will probably get rain for another couple of months, hopefully. During rainy periods, this legislation simply gives Federal agencies and State agencies the flexibility to direct water to where it is needed—nothing more. It is nothing more complicated than that because it doesn't preempt the Endangered Species Act. It doesn't preempt other environmental laws. It simply says that when it rains, and we are in rainy season right now, that we should have the ability to direct that water where it is needed. That is why this legislation has an expiration date in September of 2016, to give time for a more comprehensive solution to this.

So, from my point of view, this motion to recommit is simply a procedural motion to hopefully stop this process of trying to give short-term relief to the drought in California. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the motion to recommit and to vote "yes" on the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit. The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 182, nays 228, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 552]

YEAS—182

Adams	Gutiérrez	O'Rourke
Barrow (GA)	Hahn	Owens
Bass	Hanabusa	Pallone
Beatty	Hastings (FL)	Pascarell
Becerra	Heck (WA)	Pastor (AZ)
Bera (CA)	Higgins	Payne
Bishop (GA)	Himes	Pelosi
Bishop (NY)	Hinojosa	Perlmutter
Blumenauer	Holt	Peters (CA)
Bonamici	Honda	Peters (MI)
Brady (PA)	Horsford	Pingree (ME)
Braley (IA)	Hoyer	Pocan
Brown (FL)	Huffman	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Israel	Price (NC)
Bustos	Jackson Lee	Rahall
Butterfield	Johnson (GA)	Rangel
Capps	Johnson, E. B.	Richmond
Cardenas	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard
Carney	Keating	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Kennedy	Rush
Castor (FL)	Kildee	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Kilmer	Sánchez, Linda T.
Chu	Kind	Sánchez, Loretta T.
Ciçilline	Kirkpatrick	Sarbanes
Clark (MA)	Kuster	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Langevin	Schiff
Clay	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
Cleaver	Larson (CT)	Schrader
Clyburn	Lee (CA)	Schwartz
Connolly	Levin	Scott (VA)
Conyers	Lewis	Scott, David
Courtney	Lipinski	Serrano
Crowley	Loebach	Sewell (AL)
Cuellar	Lofgren	Sherman
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Sinema
DeFazio	Lowey	Sires
DeGette	Lujan Grisham	Slaughter
Delaney	(NM)	Speier
DeLauro	Luján, Ben Ray	Swalwell (CA)
DelBene	(NM)	Takano
Deutch	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
Dingell	Maffei	Thompson (MS)
Doggett	Maloney,	Tierney
Doyle	Carolyn	Titus
Edwards	Maloney, Sean	Tonko
Ellison	Matsui	Tsongas
Engel	McCollum	Van Hollen
Enyart	McDermott	Vargas
Eshoo	McGovern	Veasey
Esty	McIntyre	Vela
Farr	McNerney	Velázquez
Fattah	Meeks	Visclosky
Foster	Michaud	Walz
Frankel (FL)	Miller, George	Wasserman
Fudge	Moore	Schultz
Gabbard	Moran	Waters
Galleo	Murphy (FL)	Welch
Garamendi	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
Garcia	Napolitano	Yarmuth
Grayson	Neal	
Green, Al	Nolan	
Green, Gene	Norcross	

NAYS—228

Aderholt	Chaffetz	Flores
Amash	Clawson (FL)	Forbes
Amodei	Coble	Fortenberry
Bachmann	Coffman	Fox
Bachus	Cole	Franks (AZ)
Barletta	Collins (GA)	Frelinghuysen
Barr	Collins (NY)	Gardner
Barton	Conaway	Garrett
Benishek	Cook	Gerlach
Bentivolio	Costa	Gibbs
Bilirakis	Cotton	Gibson
Bishop (UT)	Cramer	Gingrey (GA)
Black	Crawford	Gohmert
Blackburn	Crenshaw	Goodlatte
Boustany	Culberson	Gosar
Brady (TX)	Daines	Gowdy
Brat	Davis, Rodney	Granger
Bridenstine	Denham	Graves (GA)
Brooks (AL)	Dent	Griffin (AR)
Brooks (IN)	DeSantis	Griffith (VA)
Broun (GA)	DesJarlais	Grimm
Buchanan	Diaz-Balart	Guthrie
Bucshon	Duffy	Hanna
Burgess	Duncan (SC)	Harper
Byrne	Duncan (TN)	Harris
Calvert	Ellmers	Hartzler
Camp	Farenthold	Hastings (WA)
Capito	Fincher	Heck (NV)
Carter	Fitzpatrick	Hensarling
Cassidy	Fleischmann	Herrera Beutler
Chabot	Fleming	Holding

Hudson	Mica	Schock
Huelskamp	Miller (FL)	Schweikert
Huizenga (MI)	Miller (MI)	Scott, Austin
Hultgren	Mullin	Sensenbrenner
Hunter	Mulvaney	Sessions
Hurt	Murphy (PA)	Shimkus
Issa	Neugebauer	Shuster
Jenkins	Noem	Simpson
Johnson (OH)	Nugent	Smith (MO)
Johnson, Sam	Nunes	Smith (NE)
Jolly	Nunnelee	Smith (NJ)
Jones	Olson	Smith (TX)
Jordan	Palazzo	Southerland
Joyce	Paulsen	Stewart
Kelly (PA)	Pearce	Stivers
King (IA)	Perry	Stockman
King (NY)	Peterson	Stutzman
Kingston	Petri	Terry
Kinzinger (IL)	Pittenger	Thompson (PA)
Kline	Pitts	Thornberry
LaMalfa	Poe (TX)	Tiberi
Lamborn	Pompeo	Tomah
Lance	Posey	Tipton
Lankford	Price (GA)	Turner
Latham	Reed	Upton
Latta	Reichert	Valadao
LoBiondo	Renacci	Wagner
Long	Ribble	Walberg
Lucas	Rigell	Walden
Luetkemeyer	Roby	Walorski
Lummis	Roe (TN)	Weber (TX)
Marino	Rogers (AL)	Webster (FL)
Massie	Rogers (KY)	Wenstrup
Matheson	Rohrabacher	Westmoreland
McAllister	Rokita	Whitfield
McCarthy (CA)	Rooney	Williams
McCaul	Ros-Lehtinen	Wilson (SC)
McClintock	Roskam	Wittman
McHenry	Ross	Wolf
McKeon	Rothfus	Womack
McKinley	Royce	Woodall
McMorris	Runyan	Yoder
Rodgers	Ryan (WI)	Yoho
Meadows	Salmon	Young (AK)
Meehan	Sanford	Young (IN)
Messer	Scalise	

NOT VOTING—24

Barber	Graves (MO)	Miller, Gary
Campbell	Grijalva	Negrete McLeod
Capuano	Hall	Quigley
Cohen	Jeffries	Rice (SC)
Cooper	Labrador	Rogers (MI)
Cummings	Marchant	Shea-Porter
Davis, Danny	McCarthy (NY)	Smith (WA)
Duckworth	Meng	Waxman

□ 1343

Messrs. BENISHEK, SESSIONS, COFFMAN, GINGREY of Georgia, and BRIDENSTINE changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 230, noes 182, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 553]

AYES—230

Aderholt	Barr	Bishop (UT)
Amash	Barrow (GA)	Black
Amodei	Barton	Blackburn
Bachmann	Benishek	Boustany
Bachus	Bentivolio	Brady (TX)
Barletta	Bilirakis	Brat

Bridenstine	Heck (NV)	Pompeo
Brooks (AL)	Hensarling	Posey
Brooks (IN)	Herrera Beutler	Price (GA)
Broun (GA)	Holding	Rahall
Buchanan	Hudson	Reed
Bucshon	Huelskamp	Reichert
Burgess	Huizenga (MI)	Renacci
Byrne	Hultgren	Ribble
Calvert	Hunter	Rice (SC)
Camp	Hurt	Rigell
Capito	Issa	Roby
Carter	Jenkins	Roe (TN)
Cassidy	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (AL)
Chabot	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (KY)
Chaffetz	Jolly	Rohrabacher
Clawson (FL)	Jones	Rokita
Coble	Jordan	Rooney
Coffman	Joyce	Ros-Lehtinen
Cole	Kelly (PA)	Roskam
Collins (GA)	King (IA)	Ross
Collins (NY)	King (NY)	Rothfus
Conaway	Kingston	Royce
Cook	Kinzinger (IL)	Runyan
Costa	Kline	Ryan (WI)
Cotton	LaMalfa	Salmon
Cramer	Lamborn	Sanford
Crawford	Lance	Scalise
Crenshaw	Lankford	Schock
Culberson	Latham	Schweikert
Daines	Latta	Scott, Austin
Davis, Rodney	LoBiondo	Sensenbrenner
Denham	Long	Sessions
Dent	Lucas	Shimkus
DeSantis	Luetkemeyer	Shuster
DesJarlais	Lummis	Simpson
Diaz-Balart	Marino	Smith (MO)
Duffy	Massie	Smith (NE)
Duncan (SC)	Matheson	Smith (NJ)
Duncan (TN)	McAllister	Smith (TX)
Ellmers	McCarthy (CA)	Southerland
Farenthold	McCaul	Stewart
Fincher	McClintock	Stivers
Fitzpatrick	McHenry	Stockman
Fleischmann	McIntyre	Stutzman
Fleming	McKeon	Terry
Flores	McKinley	Thompson (PA)
Forbes	McMorris	Thornberry
Fortenberry	Rodgers	Tiberi
Fox	Meadows	Tipton
Franks (AZ)	Meehan	Turner
Frelinghuysen	Messer	Upton
Gardner	Mica	Valadao
Garrett	Miller (FL)	Wagner
Gerlach	Miller (MI)	Walberg
Gibbs	Mullin	Walden
Gibson	Mulvaney	Walorski
Gingrey (GA)	Murphy (PA)	Weber (TX)
Gohmert	Neugebauer	Webster (FL)
Goodlatte	Noem	Wenstrup
Gosar	Nunes	Westmoreland
Gowdy	Nunnelee	Whitfield
Granger	Olson	Williams
Graves (GA)	Palazzo	Wilson (SC)
Griffin (AR)	Paulsen	Wittman
Griffith (VA)	Pearce	Wolf
Guthrie	Perry	Womack
Hanna	Peterson	Woodall
Harper	Petri	Yoder
Harris	Pittenger	Yoho
Hartzler	Pitts	Young (AK)
Hastings (WA)	Poe (TX)	Young (IN)

NOES—182

Adams	Clay	Farr
Bass	Cleaver	Fattah
Beatty	Clyburn	Foster
Becerra	Connolly	Frankel (FL)
Bera (CA)	Conyers	Fudge
Bishop (GA)	Courtney	Gabbard
Bishop (NY)	Crowley	Galleo
Blumenauer	Cuellar	Garamendi
Bonamici	Cummings	Garcia
Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)	Grayson
Braley (IA)	Davis, Danny	Green, Al
Brown (FL)	DeFazio	Green, Gene
Brownley (CA)	DeGette	Gutiérrez
Bustos	Delaney	Hahn
Butterfield	DeLauro	Hanabusa
Capps	DelBene	Hastings (FL)
Cardenas	Deutch	Heck (WA)
Carney	Dingell	Higgins
Carson (IN)	Doggett	Himes
Cartwright	Doyle	Hinojosa
Castor (FL)	Edwards	Holt
Castro (TX)	Ellison	Honda
Chu	Engel	Horsford
Ciçilline	Enyart	Hoyer
Clark (MA)	Eshoo	Huffman
Clarke (NY)	Esty	Israel

Jackson Lee	Meeks	Schakowsky
Johnson (GA)	Michaud	Schiff
Johnson, E. B.	Miller, George	Schneider
Kaptur	Moore	Schrader
Keating	Moran	Schwartz
Kelly (IL)	Murphy (FL)	Scott (VA)
Kennedy	Nadler	Scott, David
Kildee	Napolitano	Serrano
Kilmer	Neal	Sewell (AL)
Kind	Nolan	Sherman
Kirkpatrick	Norcross	Sinema
Kuster	O'Rourke	Sires
Langevin	Owens	Slaughter
Larsen (WA)	Pallone	Speier
Larson (CT)	Pascrell	Swell (CA)
Lee (CA)	Pastor (AZ)	Takano
Levin	Payne	Thompson (CA)
Lewis	Pelosi	Thompson (MS)
Lipinski	Perlmutter	Tierney
Loebach	Peters (CA)	Titus
Lofgren	Peters (MI)	Tonko
Lowenthal	Pingree (ME)	Tsongas
Lowey	Pocan	Van Hollen
Lujan Grisham	Polis	Vargas
(NM)	Price (NC)	Veasey
Lujan, Ben Ray	Quigley	Vela
(NM)	Rangel	Velázquez
Lynch	Richmond	Visclosky
Maffei	Roybal-Allard	Walz
Maloney,	Ruiz	Wasserman
Carolyn	Ruppersberger	Schultz
Maloney, Sean	Rush	Waters
Matsui	Ryan (OH)	Welch
McCollum	Sánchez, Linda	Wilson (FL)
McDermott	T.	Yarmuth
McGovern	Sanchez, Loretta	
McNerney	Sarbanes	

NOT VOTING—22

Barber	Grimm	Negrete McLeod
Campbell	Hall	Nugent
Capuano	Jeffries	Rogers (MI)
Cohen	Labrador	Shea-Porter
Cooper	Marchant	Smith (WA)
Duckworth	McCarthy (NY)	Waxman
Graves (MO)	Meng	
Grijalva	Miller, Gary	

□ 1352

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 9, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following: rollcall No. 552—On motion to recommit with instructions—“yea”; rollcall No. 553—On final passage of H.R. 5781—“nay.”

EARLY ACT REAUTHORIZATION OF 2014

Mrs. ELMERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5185) to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5185

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “EARLY Act Reauthorization of 2014”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S BREAST HEALTH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS REQUIRES LEARNING YOUNG ACT OF 2009.

Section 399NN(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280m(h)) is amended by striking “\$9,000,000 for each of the fiscal

years 2010 through 2014” and inserting “\$4,900,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019”.

SEC. 3. GAO REPORT ON HHS ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE BREAST CANCER EDUCATION.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of the Congress a report—

(1) listing and detailing the activities of the Department of Health and Human Services that provide or support breast cancer education described in subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) of section 399NN of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280m); and

(2) identifying any such activities that are duplicative with each other or with other Federal breast cancer education efforts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon in strong support of H.R. 5185, the EARLY Act. This very important bipartisan bill would reauthorize education and outreach programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention created to highlight the breast cancer risks facing young women.

Breast cancer, as we know, is an issue that hits close to home for many Americans. While most breast cancers are found in women who are over 50 years old or older, about 11 percent of all new cases of breast cancer in the U.S. are found in women 45 and younger. And while diagnosis and treatment are difficult for women of any age, young survivors often find it even more challenging.

This bill would reauthorize the important programs created in the EARLY Act, first passed to increase an understanding of breast cancer among young women by conducting prevention research and a campaign to raise awareness among the public and medical providers about early cases of breast cancer.

This bill continues to improve the health and quality of life of young breast cancer survivors and young women who are at a higher risk of getting the disease.

I want to particularly thank the two authors of the bill, Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, herself a breast cancer survivor, and Energy and Commerce Committee member RENEE

ELLMERS, who is managing the bill this afternoon. I am so proud to support this effort.

The prevention, treatment, and ultimately curing of diseases requires an all-hands-on-deck effort to not only educate but also innovate on new cures and treatments.

Early this year, the Energy and Commerce Committee embarked on the 21st Century Cures initiative with a goal of finding cures and treatments for thousands without one, including this terrible disease.

□ 1400

Sadly, we have all been touched in some manner by cancer or some other disease, whether it is a personal diagnosis or a courageous fight by a loved one. We have been encouraged and humbled by the support that we have seen for this initiative, but also understand that there is a great deal of work ahead. We look forward to meeting that challenge, and this bill helps us.

I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Again, I particularly want to commend the two gentleladies who will be speaking here this afternoon and urge all my colleagues to vote for it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to our colleague from Florida, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, the Democratic sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5185, the reauthorization of the Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act, or the EARLY Act.

The EARLY Act, which I first introduced in 2009 with my good friend and former colleague Sue Myrick of North Carolina, was cosponsored by a humbling 378 Members of the House and became law in 2010.

This law, which has been capably implemented by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, must now be reauthorized so we can ensure the good work being done by the CDC can continue.

I am very thankful to my good friend, Congresswoman RENEE ELLMERS, for leading the reauthorization effort with me this year. I also deeply appreciate the support and assistance of Chairman FRED UPTON and Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE in helping bring this reauthorization bill to the floor today. It would not have happened without their willingness and their support.

Lastly, but certainly not least, thank you to Senators AMY KLOBUCHAR and DAVID VITTER for sponsoring the Senate version of this important reauthorization bill.

The EARLY Act focuses, Mr. Speaker, on a central tenet, that we must empower young women to understand their bodies and speak up for their health. Too many women and their health practitioners think that breast

cancer is not something that happens to younger women, but the hard truth is that more than 26,000 women under age 45 are diagnosed with this deadly disease each year, and too often, their breast cancer is a more aggressive form and is caught later than it should be.

The EARLY Act created a crucial education and outreach campaign administered by the CDC and highlights the breast cancer risks facing young women while empowering them with the tools they need to fight this deadly disease.

It is also designed to help education and sensitize healthcare providers about the specific threats and warning signs of breast cancer in younger women that lead to early detection, diagnosis, and survival.

The EARLY Act also created the Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer in Young Women within the CDC, made up of breast cancer medical professionals and advocates from around the Nation. The advisory committee is hard at work developing evidence-based messages for groups at high risk, from genetic testing to fertility preservation and the basics of insurance coverage.

The CDC is rolling out a number of targeted media outreach strategies to reach specific groups of young women who are more at risk for developing breast cancer.

Understanding these risks is critical, Mr. Speaker, because the statistics are sobering. One in eight women we know will get breast cancer in her lifetime. Breast cancer strikes women from all backgrounds, races, and ethnicities. It strikes the rich and the poor, those with access to quality health care and those with little or no health care.

I was a young woman at high risk, but I didn't know it. Just months after a clean mammogram in late 2007—I know my colleagues here have heard me tell my story—I heard those terrible words, “You have breast cancer.”

Thinking of my children and their future, I underwent seven surgeries, including a double mastectomy, and for as much as I thought I knew as an advocate in the fight against breast cancer throughout my legislative career, there was so much I didn't know.

I did not know that as an Ashkenazi Jew, I was five times more likely to have a genetic mutation that drastically increased the likelihood of getting breast or ovarian cancer. I did not know that I am in fact a carrier of the BRCA gene, which gave me up to an 85 percent lifetime chance of getting breast cancer and up to a 60 percent chance of getting ovarian cancer.

I was fortunate that I had the resources I needed to learn about my risks and got the help I needed, but I didn't find my tumor through luck, Mr. Speaker. I found it through knowledge and awareness, which is what the EARLY Act has been able to give so many young women.

After I was diagnosed with breast cancer and experienced the importance

of early detection firsthand, I knew that I had to introduce legislation to help other young women facing this terrible disease.

In the first few years of this law, the CDC has already accomplished incredible work: identifying where the gaps exist in education and awareness among young women and healthcare providers about breast health; supporting young survivors through grants to organizations focused on helping these survivors cope with the many unique challenges that they face as young survivors, including fertility preservation and long-term survivorship challenges; and in implementing a targeted media campaign, including innovative social media efforts to reach women at the highest risk.

The EARLY Act has also supported specific statewide initiatives. In Georgia, the State established a statewide breast cancer genetics services network for referrals of women at high risk and to help collect baseline and post-implementation data.

In 2012, Michigan distributed over 14,000 Michigan Department of Community Health cancer family history guides to assist providers in identifying high-risk patients for referral to genetic specialists.

In addition to the 30 bipartisan cosponsors here in the House, the reauthorization of the EARLY Act has the support of the Susan G. Komen foundation, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Livestrong Foundation, Young Survival Coalition, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, Cancer Support Community, FORCE, the Black Women's Health Imperative, and the Tigerlily Foundation.

I know these groups have a deep understanding of both the amazing work we have accomplished so far but also the challenges that lie ahead. We must continue these important efforts and empower more women with the knowledge and tools they need to fight this disease, not just to survive, but to thrive. Together, we can save more of our moms, sisters, grandmothers, daughters, and sister friends.

Please help us keep up the momentum and stand with Congresswoman ELLMERS and myself and countless young women in support of reauthorization of the EARLY Act.

Mr. Speaker, if I might add, on Sunday, I marked a celebration of 7 years as a survivor of breast cancer, so this is particularly poignant and significant, and I am so appreciative of the leadership of the House on both sides of the aisle for giving this bill the full attention that it needs and deserves.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that I am so proud and honored to have been asked to join with my good friend, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ from Florida, as an original cosponsor on this very important bipartisan EARLY Act and thrilled to see this reauthorization considered in the House of Representatives.

The EARLY Act has a proven record of success, saving countless lives through both preventive and early detection measures. Unfortunately, like many good friends like my friend from Florida, they were stricken with an awful cancer.

There are still far too many courageous women fighting this disease, including a dear friend of mine back home in Dunn, Fannie Godwin. Fannie was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 42, and 4 years later, she continues her courageous fight against this disease.

The EARLY Act will serve to shed light on this disease and give hope to all women like Fannie who are still fighting this awful, awful cancer. This legislation ensures that all women, young and old, have the information and resources necessary to protect themselves and also supports those who are in remission.

This legislation will continue its important work of educating future generations on the risks associated with this disease. I look forward to seeing the EARLY Act pass this House and advance on to the Senate today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5185, the EARLY Act Reauthorization of 2014. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 220,000 women and 2,000 men were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011, making breast cancer the most common cancer among women. Approximately 11 percent of the new breast cancer cases occur in women under 45 years of age.

Young women who have close relatives diagnosed with breast cancer before age 45, have changes in certain breast cancer genes, were treated with radiation therapy to the breast or the chest as a child or a young adult, or possess certain other risk factors may be at higher risk for getting breast cancer at a young age.

The EARLY Act was first signed into law in 2010 to improve young women's breast health awareness and assist young women diagnosed with breast cancer. The act has supported public health research on breast cancer in young women, communication and education initiatives, and support services to young breast cancer survivors and their families.

Mr. Speaker, today's legislation reauthorizes the EARLY Act at currently appropriated funding levels and requires a study to identify any activities under the act that are duplicative of other Federal breast cancer education efforts.

I want to acknowledge Representatives WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and ELLMERS for their work on this issue and also thank leaders and staff on the Energy and Commerce Committee for helping to bring H.R. 5185 to the floor today.

I urge colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation. Breast cancer is an issue that has touched almost every family I know, and this is one way Congress can react to it.

Mr. Speaker, we are ready to close, and we have no other speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, we are ready to close.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to say again thank you to my good friend for allowing me to be a part of this. I know how important it is to her and, again, thousands and thousands like her; and, again, to my friend Fannie Godwin back home, Fannie has touched so many lives. She is a teacher, she is a wife and a mother, and she is involved in her church and her community.

On Christmas Eve, she will be at First Presbyterian Church in Dunn playing the bells in the choir. I always see a smile on Fannie's face, and today, I want to make that smile even bigger.

Again, Mr. Speaker, thank you so much for allowing this to move forward today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5185, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROPANE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2014

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5705) to modify certain provisions relating to the Propane Education and Research Council.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5705

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Propane Education and Research Enhancement Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE PROPANE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COUNCIL.

(a) FUNCTIONS OF PROPANE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COUNCIL.—Section 5(f) of the Propane Education and Research Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 6404(f)) is amended in the first sentence by inserting "to train propane distributors and consumers in strategies to mitigate negative effects of future propane price spikes," after "to enhance consumer and employee safety and training."

(b) MARKET SURVEY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION PRICE ANALYSIS.—Section 9(a) of the Propane Education and Research Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 6408(a)) is amended in the first sentence by striking "only data provided by the

Energy Information Administration" and inserting "the refiner price to end users of consumer grade propane, as published by the Energy Information Administration".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5705, the Propane Education and Research Enhancement Act of 2014, which I introduced along with Congressman WALZ. This important, bipartisan legislation directs the U.S. Department of Commerce to more accurately calculate consumer propane costs. It also enables the propane industry to use its resources to mitigate price spikes.

Last winter in my home State of Ohio, as well as across 26 other States across the country, the lives and livelihoods of many Americans were threatened due to the propane shortages that were being experienced. Access to heat is a requirement for survival and employment, and we want to make sure that Americans do not face the same hardships again this winter or in future winters.

This bill would take the necessary steps to allow the propane industry to adequately address propane supply in pricing issues so consumers are not negatively impacted this coming winter.

□ 1415

In 1996, Congress enacted the Propane Education and Research Act, PERA, authorizing the propane to collect and use its own resources for safety, training, research and development, and education for the benefit of propane consumers and the public. The law also established the Propane Education and Research Council, PERC, to accomplish these goals.

To prevent this program from creating a disproportionate demand for propane, the Department of Commerce is required to annually calculate the price for consumer grade propane and compare it with an index of prices of specified competing fuels. If the price of propane exceeds a certain threshold, PERC is restricted from conducting its educational outreach activities.

In 2009, due to a misinterpretation of the law by the Department of Commerce, the restriction was triggered and all educational outreach by PERC

ceased. While the Department of Commerce believes Congress intended PERA to focus only on residential-only propane, the text of the law does not limit it to the residential market.

To correct this discrepancy, the Propane Education and Research Enhancement Act of 2014 would clarify the language in the law to require the Department of Commerce to use the proper data and bring the application of the law back in line with Congress' intent. It would also amend the existing functions of PERC to include training distributors and consumers in strategies to mitigate the negative effects of propane price spikes.

Over the past year, I have been working on this legislation with stakeholders and with Congressman WALZ to help mitigate having another propane shortage. This legislation is an important step in helping to achieve this, and I urge full support by my colleagues for H.R. 5705.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, and a special thank you to my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

This is a commonsense piece of legislation, but I think it is important to note, for many of us, and my colleague mentioned, last year when the propane shortage came, folks can prepare—and we understand out in Ohio and Minnesota with our harsh winters that you prepare for these things—but the situation with propane came so quickly and so fast that the imposition that it made in some cases could have become life threatening, where propane tanks were running empty and families were counting on it to heat their homes. We have a lot of agricultural uses in drying our row crops where it is critically important, and I think it is important to note that at that time the gentleman from Ohio stood up and became a national leader on this issue and I think helped not only alleviate at the time but start doing things like this looking to the future.

This is what we should be doing. This is smart, making sure that our markets work correctly and making sure that the intent of Congress is followed and making sure that our consumers are well served. I thank you for that. I think this is exactly what our constituents expect. I know there are a lot of folks in southern Minnesota who have benefited from this.

This is a fairly simple fix. It comes from a misinterpretation. But I think the point that the gentleman has brought up that is critically important, markets are starting to function. We are seeing this, but this is an education piece. I think when we educate the public right on this, and you heard some of the implications of that, by not doing that, when they stopped all education on this, the propane shortage of last winter came quickly. It

came fast, and it had immediate repercussions.

I would say once we correct this deficiency, amend it, it will make a difference. It will enable the propane industry to use its resources to mitigate price spikes, and it will more accurately let consumers know what the price of propane is.

So I think this is a fairly simple fix. But nothing is simple in Congress, as we know, and nothing is simple when you are dealing with a complex commodity such as propane. But I do think that as we move into this winter, knocking on wood is one thing, but leadership like the gentleman from Ohio has shown is also helping us.

I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense piece of legislation and move this forward. Again, this is what we are sent here to do, to try to make things a little bit better and make sure our markets function correctly and make sure our constituents are being educated correctly.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 5705, the Propane Education and Research Act.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 5705, the Propane Education and Research Enhancement Act.

Today, tens of millions of Americans rely on propane and heating oil.

Propane and propane accessories are used in everyday life from cooking to commercial agricultural uses are vital to farmers in the Midwest that use propane to dry corn and feed the world.

Heating oil is used throughout the Northeast to heat homes and water during the long New England winter.

Personally, in years past, I've relied on propane when I didn't have access to the vast network of pipelines that supply natural gas.

Unfortunately, like many important commodities, unless you've run out of propane or heating oil, most people probably don't know or understand the vast importance of this product.

In the early 2000s, the Energy and Commerce Committee passed legislation that authorized the Propane Education and Research Council and the National Oilheat Research Alliance.

These two national entities implement consumer education, research and development, and safety and training programs related to the use of propane and heating oil.

While PERC and NORA are federally-authorized, these two organizations cost the federal government absolutely nothing.

But they play an important role in the communities they serve.

H.R. 5705 amends the Propane Education and Research Act of 1996, the original legislation, and expands the ability of PERC to educate distributors and consumers in strategies to deal with future propane price spikes.

Last winter, the United States faced a propane emergency.

The industry has stepped up to ensure that we don't face another crisis like that.

But we always need to be prepared and armed with knowledge of how to better deal with any situation.

With preparation legislation like H.R. 5705, we can assist Americans, all over the country, by sharing the best information possible.

I lend my support to H.R. 5705 and I am pleased my colleagues do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, as the gentleman from Minnesota pointed out, we had a great shortage last winter that affected small family farms and large farms across the country. We had situations where businesses were being affected and having to shut down. So this is a very important bill that will help folks make sure that hopefully we don't have that situation occur again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 5705.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5705.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE ACT OF 2014

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5764) to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5764

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE.

Section 118(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

"(7) GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE.—

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Agency a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (referred to in this paragraph as the 'Initiative') to carry out programs and projects for Great Lakes protection and restoration.

"(B) FOCUS AREAS.—The Initiative shall prioritize programs and projects carried out in coordination with non-Federal partners and programs and projects that address priority areas each fiscal year, including—

"(i) the remediation of toxic substances and areas of concern;

"(ii) the prevention and control of invasive species and the impacts of invasive species;

"(iii) the protection and restoration of nearshore health and the prevention and mitigation of nonpoint source pollution;

"(iv) habitat and wildlife protection and restoration, including wetlands restoration and preservation; and

"(v) accountability, monitoring, evaluation, communication, and partnership activities.

"(C) PROJECTS.—Under the Initiative, the Agency shall collaborate with Federal partners, including the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, to select the best combination of programs and projects for Great Lakes protection and restoration using appropriate principles and criteria, including whether a program or project provides—

"(i) the ability to achieve strategic and measurable environmental outcomes that implement the Great Lakes Action Plan and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;

"(ii) the feasibility of—

"(I) prompt implementation;

"(II) timely achievement of results; and

"(III) resource leveraging; and

"(iii) the opportunity to improve inter-agency and inter-organizational coordination and collaboration to reduce duplication and streamline efforts.

"(D) IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available to carry out the Initiative shall be used to strategically implement—

"(I) Federal projects; and

"(II) projects carried out in coordination with States, Indian tribes, municipalities, institutions of higher education, and other organizations.

"(ii) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—With amounts made available for the Initiative each fiscal year, the Administrator may—

"(I) transfer not more than \$300,000,000 to the head of any Federal department or agency, with the concurrence of the department or agency head, to carry out activities to support the Initiative and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; and

"(II) enter into an interagency agreement with the head of any Federal department or agency to carry out activities described in subclause (I).

"(E) SCOPE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Projects shall be carried out under the Initiative on multiple levels, including—

"(I) Great Lakes-wide; and

"(II) Great Lakes basin-wide.

"(ii) LIMITATION.—No funds made available to carry out the Initiative may be used for any water infrastructure activity (other than a green infrastructure project that improves habitat and other ecosystem functions in the Great Lakes) for which amounts are made available from—

"(I) a State water pollution control revolving fund established under title VI; or

"(II) a State drinking water revolving loan fund established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12).

"(F) ACTIVITIES BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each relevant Federal department or agency shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

"(i) maintain the base level of funding for the Great Lakes activities of that department or agency without regard to funding under the Initiative; and

"(ii) identify new activities and projects to support the environmental goals of the Initiative.

"(G) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Initiative \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5764.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5764, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2014.

The Great Lakes are an important resource for the United States. More than 30 million people live in the Great Lakes region, and the lakes help support over \$200 billion a year in economic activity.

To help ensure coordination between Federal, State, and private parties in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes, a Great Lakes Interagency Task Force of Federal agencies was created in 2004. In 2010, the task force released an action plan as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

In September of this year, the Federal agencies released an updated Action Plan II, which summarized the actions that the Federal agencies planned to implement during fiscal years 2015 through 2019 using Great Lakes funding. The action plan aims to strategically target the biggest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem and to accelerate progress toward long-term goals.

Congressman JOYCE introduced H.R. 5764 to amend the Great Lakes program provisions under section 118 of the Clean Water Act to formally authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for 5 years and to carry out projects and activities for Great Lakes protection and restoration.

Under the initiative, the Environmental Protection Agency is to collaborate with other Federal partners, including the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, to select the best combination of projects and activities for Great Lakes protection and restoration. Specified principles and criteria are to be used in selecting projects and activities, including whether they, one, improve the interagency and inter-organizational coordination and collaboration to reduce duplication and streamline efforts; two, provide the ability to timely achieve strategic and measurable environmental outcomes and leverage resources with other Federal and non-Federal partners.

The bill authorizes the initiative for fiscal year 2015 through 2019. I encourage all Members to support H.R. 5764.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5764, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2014.

Let me start by recognizing the hard work of the bipartisan cosponsors of this legislation, including the retiring dean of the House, Mr. DINGELL, and commend their efforts to move this legislation.

H.R. 5764 would authorize Federal appropriations for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a program initiated by this administration to coordinate the Federal restoration efforts of the Great Lakes.

For the decades leading up to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, many Federal agencies were involved in the cleanup and protection of the Great Lakes. However, their efforts were far from coordinated, resulting in inefficient cleanup activities that made little progress in the overall health of the Great Lakes.

In 2010, this administration launched the initiative to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the largest fresh surface water system in the world, the Great Lakes. Under the leadership of the former EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, this initiative prioritized five focus areas: cleaning up toxics and the Great Lakes areas of concern; combating invasive species; promoting the near-shore health by protecting watersheds from polluted runoff; restoring wetlands and other habitats; and tracking the progress made, as well as educating and working with strategic partners.

As of August 2013, the initiative has funded more than 1,500 projects and programs of the highest priority to meet immediate cleanup and restoration and protection needs. As a result of these efforts, there is tangible proof that the health of the Great Lakes is improving—from the delisting of two additional U.S. Great Lakes Areas of Concern to a list of over 30 success stories recently documented by the Healing Our Waters Coalition. Yet additional progress is needed, and the authorization of appropriations contained in H.R. 5764 is a good step forward to continuing this effort.

However, I would note that most of the successes of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative can all be traced back to one factor that I have highlighted over and over again in this Congress: the critical need for robust Federal funding.

As I noted during floor consideration of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013, as well as during numerous other authorization and appropriation bills this Congress, to see real progress in the programs we establish, we need also to provide the critical funding to our Federal agencies that implement these programs.

Too often these days we seem driven to cut Federal spending for programs that provide a real benefit to our Nation without an awareness of the consequences of these actions. This Chamber will recognize that there are places where the Federal Government can help and should be making increased investments, such as to repair our

crumbling infrastructure or to protect our fragile natural environment. Yet later this week, I fear that we will again be asked to vote on an appropriations package for the Federal Government that woefully underfunds critical investments in our Nation's future, from building the transportation infrastructure that will keep our country competitive into the next century, to investing in the water-related infrastructure that protects communities, families, and businesses, to making targeted improvements to our natural environment to ensure the protection of human, economic, and environmental health for generations to come.

We need to do better. We need to recognize that the expenditure of Federal money to invest in our Nation is not inherently a bad thing. We need to understand that the Federal Government needs to be an active partner in addressing many of the complex challenges facing our States, our communities, and our everyday lives. And we need to support the missions of those Federal agencies we have charged with ensuring the long-term economic and environmental health of this Nation. These are only some of the ongoing challenges that face this Nation, and we need a Congress that is serious about taking on the hard questions and making the right investments, not only for our own lives and livelihoods, but for those generations of Americans to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the bipartisan sponsors of this legislation for ensuring that the new authorization shows some willingness to provide robust funding for these restoration efforts rather than simply and mindlessly cutting these programs. I urge support of H.R. 5764.

I reserve the balance of my time.

DECEMBER 8, 2014.

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE GREAT LAKES HOUSE DELEGATION: We are writing to convey our support for H.R. 5764, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2014, bipartisan legislation recently introduced by Representatives David Joyce, Louise Slaughter, Sander Levin, and John Dingell. We understand the bill may be considered this week under suspension of the rules and urge you to support it. This is a top regional priority for the Great Lakes states, local communities, tribes, conservation organizations, and business and industry.

This legislation provides formal authorization for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), an ambitious regional restoration program for the Great Lakes that is cleaning up degraded "toxic hotspots," halting Asian carp and other invasive species, and preventing polluted runoff that closes beaches and causes harmful algal blooms. It provides a solid legislative platform to ensure our region continues to work together successfully to implement a science-based and outcomes-focused plan of action for restoring and protecting the Great Lakes.

The bill directs U.S. EPA to collaborate with the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and state and local partners to select the best combination of projects to protect and restore the Great Lakes. It focuses on restoration projects that can be implemented quickly, will achieve environmental outcomes outlined in the new Great Lakes

Action Plan and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and that leverage other funding.

Passing this legislation now will clarify the focus and accountability of our restoration efforts and ensure the program continues to achieve effective results. We recently worked with federal agencies to re-write the GL RI Action Plan, which lays out our region's restoration goals and objectives, and revises how we measure progress. The new plan addresses the Government Accountability Office's review, which found no major deficiencies in the GLRI program.

Restoring the Great Lakes creates jobs, stimulates economic development, and protects fresh drinking water for 30 million people. The lakes currently generate over 1.5 million jobs and \$60 billion in wages annually, and provide the foundation for a \$30 billion tourism economy. Clearly, the Great Lakes are an invaluable resource worth restoring and protecting, and this legislation is critical to our collective efforts toward this end. We urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

TIM EDER,
*Executive Director,
Great Lakes Com-
mission.*

TODD AMBS,
*Director, Healing Our
Waters—Great Lakes
Coalition.*

WILLIAM TAYLOR,
*Chair, U.S. Section,
Great Lakes Fishery
Commission.*

DAVID A. ULLRICH,
*Executive Director,
Great Lakes and St.
Lawrence Cities Ini-
tiative.*

JANE A. TENEYCK,
*Executive Director,
Chippewa Ottawa
Resource Authority.*

KATHRYN A. BUCKNER,
*President, Council of
Great Lakes Indus-
tries.*

ED WOLKING, JR.,
*Executive Director,
Great Lakes Metro
Chambers Coalition.*

HEALING OUR WATERS—
GREAT LAKES COALITION,
December 8, 2014.

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Healing Our Waters—Great Lakes Coalition, we write today to ask you to vote for H.R. 5764, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2014. The legislation is vital in the ongoing effort to restore the Great Lakes, which supplies drinking water to more than 30 million people.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act helps achieve our region's restoration goals by formally authorizing the popular Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The GLRI is a successful, bipartisan response to protecting and restoring one-fifth of the world's surface fresh water. Our region's recent restoration efforts started when President George W. Bush asked for a restoration blueprint, which the 1,500 stakeholders that were a part of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration produced in 2005. President Barack Obama continued this effort when he recommended funding in his fiscal year 2010 budget for the implementation of this strategy through Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The GLRI is an innovative, action-oriented approach targeting the region's biggest environmental problems like invasive species, legacy contaminants, habitat loss,

and polluted runoff from farms and cities. It allows the Environmental Protection Agency to enter into interagency agreements with other federal agencies to utilize their existing competitive grant programs allowing the region to quickly and effectively undertake restoration work throughout the Great Lakes basin.

Because of this coordinated effort between federal agencies and non-federal stakeholders, we are seeing tremendous results. Since 2010, three U.S. Areas of Concern (Presque Isle Bay, PA; Deer Lake, MI; White Lake, MI) have been cleaned up and taken off the list of contaminated sites. Before the GLRI, only one site had been delisted since 1987 (Oswego River, NY). The management actions necessary for delisting the Sheboygan River (WI), Waukegan Harbor (IL), and Ashtabula River (OH) AOCs have also been completed. The GLRI has accelerated the cleanup of regional toxic sites. Between 2010 through 2013, the GLRI removed 42 impairments—from drinking water restrictions to swimming advisories—from 17 contaminated sites. The number of so-called "beneficial use impairments" that have been removed across the region has quadrupled under the GLRI. In fact, more impairments have been removed since the GLRI began in 2010 than in the preceding 22 years.

In addition, from 2004 to 2009, the Great Lakes region was the only area in the country to show a gain in wetland acreage. Now the GLRI is building on that foundation with a goal to restore one million acres in the basin. So far, the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (among others) restored, protected, or enhanced over 115,000 acres of wetlands and other habitat. More than 1,900 river miles were cleared of over 250 barriers resulting in fish swimming into stretches of river where they had been absent for decades. Based on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service monitoring, GLRI-sponsored actions are increasing self-sustaining populations of native species important to the Great Lakes, like lake sturgeon—as well as supporting the region's multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation economy. For example, efforts in the Saginaw River watershed have contributed to the now self-sustaining wall-eye population in Saginaw Bay, MI.

However, there is still much work that needs to be done. Aging sewers, invasive species, and toxic pollutants are just a few of the pervasive threats that impact the region, endangering human and wildlife health, lowering property values, and hurting the region's economy. Without support restoration efforts will slow allowing problems to get worse and more expensive to solve. Ultimately, reducing investment in the Great Lakes won't save money—it will cost the nation more. As the source of drinking water for 30 million people, the nation cannot afford to stop protecting and restoring the Great Lakes.

We hope you will vote for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2014. This bill is important to ensure accountability, transparency, and results. It sets a permanent programmatic stage from which the GLRI can continue to succeed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact Chad Lord, our coalition's policy director.

Sincerely,

LYNN MCCLURE,
Co-chair.

KRISTY MEYER,
Co-chair.

NICOLE BARKER,
Co-chair.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my full support for H.R. 5764, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2014. The reason is simple, Mr. Speaker: the Great Lakes are a national and economic treasure in the U.S., which contains one-fifth of the world's freshwater supply.

The GLRI is the most important, significant, and productive effort to date to protect these five lakes that provide drinking water and jobs for millions of people. It is crucial that the GLRI be formally authorized at \$300 million for the next 5 years to ensure that the great work already done is not lost.

□ 1430

This does not add any new spending and will continue to make sure necessary resources are available.

GLRI is an action-oriented, results-driven initiative targeting the most significant problems within the basin, including invasive species like Asian carp, toxins and contaminated sediment, nonpoint source pollution, and habitat and wildlife protection and restoration.

The programs are working, and the GLRI will ensure we have healthy Great Lakes, while boosting the economies in this vast region.

The Great Lakes are one of the jewels of the United States. When I talk about the Great Lakes to people who are not from the region, I make sure to point out their benefits are twofold: economic and environmental.

Let me give you a couple of statistics that will illustrate how important it is that we make this critical investment.

Six quadrillion. We are not talking about a little freshwater here. There are six quadrillion gallons of water in the Great Lakes basin. Let's let that number soak in.

\$62 billion. The Great Lakes basin supports a diverse range of industries and small businesses, and that is how much is generated by wages in the industry in the Great Lakes region.

Thirty million. That is the number of people who live within the Great Lakes basin and rely on them for safe drinking water, transportation, and recreation.

\$14 million. That is how much money in GLRI funds that was spent to clean up the Ashtabula River, in the heart of my district. Because these programs are working, I was able to see the Ashtabula River taken off the EPA's designated list of places that are "areas of concern" a couple of months ago. That is a really big deal for northeast Ohio.

1.5 million. That is how many jobs are directly related to the Great Lakes.

3,500. That is how many diverse species of plant and wildlife call the Great Lakes home.

Finally, the last and most telling statistic for you today is the number three. Three is the number of days that residents of Toledo in my home State of Ohio were unable to drink the water in their homes because of the harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. The water

in Lake Erie was literally green. That is unacceptable.

This is a clear reason why we need to pass this bill and authorize GLRI—with bipartisan support—because no American should ever be afraid to drink the tap water in their own home.

Supporting this bill will lock in the programs that work to ensure our Nation's largest bodies of freshwater are protected and will continue to be protected in the future.

Before I close, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER, as well as my colleague and dear friend from Ohio, Representative GIBBS, and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their help on this bill. We have spent a lot of time working on this issue, and I am very grateful for their assistance.

I would also like to thank Majority Leader MCCARTHY for scheduling this important bill for floor consideration.

I am very excited the GLRI enjoys so much bipartisan support from Great Lakes Members here in Congress. When we make these investments in our Great Lakes, results are produced for our constituents, the environment, and businesses throughout the vast region.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. JOYCE. It is critical we formally authorize GLRI so that people who live in Toledo or Mentor or Conneaut in my district don't have to worry about days ahead without fresh drinking water.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who is a cosponsor of the bill.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member Mr. BISHOP for yielding and thank the chairman Mr. GIBBS, and, obviously, my colleague Mr. JOYCE, who just spoke.

I rise in support strong support of H.R. 5764.

Since the creation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, our Nation has made great strides in reviving and protecting our Nation's greatest freshwater treasure, our Great Lakes.

Still, despite progress, this past summer presented a stark reminder of the unfinished challenge, as a toxic algal bloom shut off the fresh drinking water to over half a million people and businesses in Ohio and Michigan for 3 days across Lake Erie's western basin, the largest watershed in the entire Great Lakes.

The public, though shocked, was orderly and beneficent. We didn't have riots or civil disorder.

During that 3-day crisis, astoundingly, we learned communities along the lake were not equipped locally to test the water so vital to their own survival. Two precious days were wasted sending and resending vials and samples 5 hours away to EPA labs, and then back and then back again. This simply is unacceptable. Proper testing equipment on Lake Erie is fundamental, fundamental to a response

time commensurate with the challenge that remains before us.

The Lake Erie community needs its own water testing equipment and certified lab. Already local universities and health departments have been assembling key components of necessary equipment for a certified lab. It is incumbent upon the GLRI to help us find a way to provide the remaining \$147,000—not million—\$147,000 we have to deliver.

To date, the lack of response from our Federal agencies is astounding. Lake Erie's water quality is an emergency due to the toxic algal blooms.

When we see Federal agencies diverting hundreds of millions of dollars abroad to dams in Afghanistan to deliver freshwater, yet somehow our own EPA can't identify funds to protect the American people who live along Lake Erie and Lake Michigan and draw their life source from it, I stand aghast.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman another 1½ minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. When our water crisis occurred, the U.S. EPA didn't even show up or have personnel on the ground. I asked, "Where is Homeland Security funding to help during the crisis and after?" No show. As far as I am concerned, they are asleep at the wheel. Wake up.

As we prepare for a new spring thaw and the increasing rains that will come, feeding the algal blooms, the GLRI presents the hope that I still have that a solution can be found to counter the agency dithering that our region has experienced throughout this harrowing environmental crisis.

Surely, America can do better. I really think the chairman Mr. GIBBS, from the State of Ohio, and my dear colleague Mr. JOYCE, from the State of Ohio, they live at the other end of the lake, but they get the problem. God bless you. And I thank the ranking member, Mr. BISHOP from the east coast, who understands how important freshwater is to sustain life in this country. It shouldn't be this hard.

Thank you so very much for this bill. I rise in strong support.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio, but I would also like to thank a lady and a Member, whom I have begun to call our "lady of our lakes." Ms. KAPTUR, thank you so much for speaking out the way you do about the Great Lakes, and also Mr. JOYCE, a very good colleague and a friend, because we all understand what it is that makes the Great Lakes great. I think that is the whole point of what we are talking about. This is a gift from God.

Now, you have heard Mr. JOYCE talk about some of the statistics. But when you think about it, if you just close

your eyes for 1 minute and visualize in your mind's eye the continental United States, the land mass. The volume of freshwater contained in our Great Lakes would cover that land mass by 9½ to 10 feet. It is an incredible amount of water. But, more importantly, it is an incredible gift from God. We have to protect this area. Why would we not?

The statistics that we talk about are overwhelming. We thank a lot of people for being involved in this. But do you know who I want to thank more than anybody else? The hardworking American taxpayers. By our Constitution, we are granted the authority to tax them, but we are also given the responsibility to spend their money the right way. Why would we have a situation where we can't imagine that we would fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative? It just doesn't make sense.

One-fifth of the world's freshwater, not one-fifth of Pennsylvania, not one-fifth of the United States, not one-fifth of North America, but one-fifth of the world's freshwater resides in our Great Lakes. I would suggest to people that talk about energy, you can go a lot longer without oil than you can without drinking water. We have an opportunity to do something that just makes sense to each and every one of us. We can get this done.

If I may, just for a minute, to paraphrase Luke 12:48:

To whom much is given, much is required.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that this is not an option, this is a moral obligation on behalf of the people of this great country to look at one of the assets that we have, a gift from God, and make sure that we preserve it for future generations.

I thank both gentlemen from Ohio, the lady from Ohio, and everybody else who was involved in this. I especially want to do a shout-out to a young man who works in the Northeast-Midwest Coalition, a guy by the name of Sam Breene, who lives and breathes the lake's initiatives. I want to thank him for his hard work, and I want to thank everybody involved in getting this taken care of.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN), who is a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and a cosponsor of the bill.

(Mr. NOLAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, my district includes Duluth, Minnesota, the headwaters of the Great Lakes, and, of course, the magnificent North Shore. I encourage you all to come and visit the first chance you get.

I, too, rise in strong support of this important bipartisan Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and I, too, would be remiss if I didn't compliment our chairman, Mr. GIBBS, and our ranking

member, Mr. BISHOP, for bringing this legislation forward, and, of course, our chief sponsor of the legislation, DAVID JOYCE, our good Republican friend. Thank you for your leadership in convincing the Office of the President and our budget operatives around here that in this particular case we need a little bit more than what they wanted or recommended.

I would also remind my colleagues that this is not just about preservation; this is about taking responsibility for some of the neglect out of past. As I can tell you, back in Duluth, there was a time when we had to haul drinking water in for the citizens of Duluth because the water out of Lake Superior wasn't drinkable. I remember a time when the Great Lakes were so polluted they were catching on fire in some places because of neglect. So in many respects we are stepping up and we are assuming responsibility for neglect in the past.

I don't mind telling you how important it has been to us up in the Lake Superior area. We have had over 100 projects funded over the years accomplishing so many things: combating invasive species, mitigating pollution of the past, identifying toxins that represent a threat to the basin and our public health and our public safety, protecting wild rice—I am an old wild rice picker; you can't have enough good native wild rice—and protecting wildlife in general. What a difference these projects have made.

Last, but not least, I would be remiss if I didn't thank our Appropriations Committee members—MARCY KAPTUR and BETTY MCCOLLUM, in particular—for your stepping up in your leadership in this.

But there is still so much more to be done. That is why I stand here today and strongly urge my colleagues to give their full support to this important legislation.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, certainly, protecting and preserving the Great Lakes has always been a principal advocacy of mine through my entire tenure in public office and even before I came into public office. I actually grew up on the Great Lakes. My family was in the marina business. So the lakes were more than just a source of recreation for us. They put food on the table in our family. Like so many from the region, the Great Lakes are a proud part of our identity. We have heard from so many of the various States in the Great Lakes basin today the passion that we all have for these magnificent, magnificent Great Lakes.

As has been said, they generate billions of dollars each and every year through fishing, through the shipping industry, and recreational activities as well. They are 20 percent of the fresh-water drinking supply on the entire planet, quite frankly.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we have not been the best stewards of these magnificent lakes, and we do owe it to future generations to help assure that they are protected and that they are preserved. One great way to do this for the Great Lakes is through this continued funding and support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that we are debating here on the floor today.

Over the years, Mr. Speaker, I have seen firsthand the impact the GLRI is having on our lakes. From dredging to beach and shoreline restoration to fighting against invasive species, these projects are critical to protecting and restoring the Great Lakes ecosystems.

□ 1445

Actually, in October, I was at a place called Harsens Island in my district where I saw an effort underway to control phragmites, which is sort of an odd name. It is a huge, invasive plant that has been actually choking wetlands throughout the Great Lakes Basin, but funding through this program is eradicating them and letting Mother Nature breathe again.

Along the shoreline of the St. Clair River, GLRI funded the restoration of natural habitats, improved stormwater drainage, and improved water quality, but there is so much more to do. For example, the Clinton River, which flows through a very major metropolitan area in southeast Michigan, is in need of similar restoration projects.

We also need to look at ways that can better detect toxins in our waterways with real-time water quality monitoring systems, some of which we have in my area as it comes through Lake Huron, the St. Clair River, into Lake St. Clair, and down the Detroit River. It is not happening in Lake Erie, and it has to be part of the notification protocol there as well. We also are having some of these green-blue algae blooms in our area.

As was mentioned, these are a gift from God. God gave us these magnificent lakes that have provided us with so much, but we do need to be better stewards of them, and quite frankly, we have a lot of making up to do to Mother Nature.

Mr. Speaker, we can start that certainly today by strongly supporting H.R. 5764, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act. I certainly rise in strong support of this bill from the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), and I urge all of my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation. I think it is good, solid bipartisan legislation that is necessary, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize today that we lose some institutional knowledge at

the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, specifically the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. Today is the last hurrah on the floor as we lose our longtime staff director, John Anderson, to the outside world.

John is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina. He joined the Memphis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in early 1970 as a biologist. Later, he moved on to the Savannah District and finally to the Army Corps of Engineers headquarters here in Washington, D.C.

John joined the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in 1999 on detail from the Corps, and he never left. In 2005, he was promoted to staff director of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

In John's more than 40 years of service to the Nation, he has in some fashion, either at the Corps level or here in Congress, been part of every single WRDA law since 1990. He is widely respected in the world of transportation and infrastructure policy and is a renowned expert in the Nation's water resources policy.

We wish John the best in his departure from Congress. He and his wife, Guimar, are the proud parents of three boys: John Alexander, Patrick, and Richard Anderson. They are also the proud grandparents of three Anderson grandchildren.

It has been a privilege to work with John Anderson in my last 4 years as the chairman of the subcommittee. I wish him well and thank him. Good luck.

I also urge support of the bill.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GIBBS. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I, too, want to add a word of both thanks and congratulations to John Anderson for his service in the Congress over a great many years. I came to see firsthand his skill and dedication when we were working so cooperatively together on passing the Water Resources Development Act of 2013. His involvement was essential.

That bill stands as one of the few substantive pieces of bipartisan legislation that this Congress has passed, and we were able to get it in done in part because of John's efforts.

I thank you, and I wish you a well-earned retirement.

Mr. GIBBS. Reclaiming my time, I would also be remiss not to say a few words about my good friend, Mr. BISHOP from Long Island, New York. It has been a privilege having you serve as my ranking member on the subcommittee for the last 4 years. I wish you well in your endeavors in the future.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I appreciate that very much.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for this needed legislation.

In Michigan, we're blessed to be surrounded by the Great Lakes. In so many ways, the Lakes define our state, and our region, as well. For many years, though, we did not treat them as if they were very great. For the better part of a century, the Lakes and their tributaries were polluted to the point that they were dying.

A century of environmental harm cannot be undone overnight, but we've made considerable progress. That's where the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative comes in. Through the GLRI, we are finally addressing longstanding problems, such as toxic hotspots, invasive species like the Asian carp, habitat restoration, and runoff pollution.

The GLRI was created by the Obama Administration and, since 2010, Congress has widely funded it. Now it is time for Congress to take the next step and formally authorize this vital program. Congress must remain a full partner in the restoration effort in the Great Lakes, and authorizing GLRI is the best way to do that.

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of my colleagues who have worked so hard to support GLRI over the last five years, especially Representative JOYCE, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, and my good friend JOHN DINGELL. I would also like to underscore the longstanding efforts of Senator CARL LEVIN and his staff in the area of Great Lakes restoration.

As we continue to make meaningful progress on restoration of the Great Lakes, this will be a hopeful sign that other difficult environmental redemptions are also achievable. Let us move forward together today by passing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, as a co-Chair of the House Great Lakes Task Force, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5764, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act.

This bipartisan legislation authorizes the popular Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This program is critical to restoring and protecting the Great Lakes, which hold over 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater and are the source of drinking water, jobs, and recreation for millions of Americans.

I have represented districts that span the southern coast of Lake Ontario all the way to the City of Buffalo on Lake Erie and I know first hand the special bond the people of the Great Lakes basin share with these lakes. These magnificent bodies of water are truly unique and we must do all that we can to protect these national treasures for future generations. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5764.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RELEASE OF RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND LIMITATIONS ON THE USE, ENCUMBRANCE, CONVEYANCE, AND CLOSURE OF THE ST. CLAIR REGIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2759) to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2759

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RELEASE OF RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND LIMITATIONS ON THE USE, ENCUMBRANCE, CONVEYANCE, AND CLOSURE OF THE ST. CLAIR REGIONAL AIRPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport, as described in the most recent airport layout plan approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, to the extent such restrictions, conditions, and limitations are enforceable by the Administrator.

(b) LIMITATION.—The release under subsection (a) shall not be executed before the City of St. Clair, or its designee, transfers to the Department of Transportation of the State of Missouri—

(1) the amounts described in subsection (c), to be used for capital improvements within the meaning of airport development (as defined in section 47102(3) of title 49, United States Code) and consistent with the obligations of the Department of Transportation of the State of Missouri under the State block grant program of the Federal Aviation Administration; and

(2) for no consideration, all airport and aviation-related equipment of the St. Clair Regional Airport owned by the City of St. Clair and determined by the Department of Transportation of the State of Missouri to be salvageable for use.

(c) AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—The amounts described in this subsection are the following:

(1) An amount equal to the fair market value for the highest and best use of the St. Clair Regional Airport property determined in good faith by an independent and qualified real estate appraiser on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) An amount equal to the unamortized portion of any Federal development grants other than land paid to the City of St. Clair for use at the St. Clair Regional Airport, which may be paid with, and shall be an allowable use of, airport revenue notwithstanding section 47107 or 47133 of title 49, United States Code.

(3) An amount equal to the airport revenues remaining in the airport account for the St. Clair Regional Airport as of the date of the enactment of this Act and otherwise due to or received by the City of St. Clair after such date of enactment pursuant to sections 47107(b) and 47133 of title 49, United States Code.

(d) REQUIREMENT TO REMOVE RUNWAY LIGHTING SYSTEM.—The Federal Aviation Administration shall remove the runway end indicator lighting system at St. Clair Regional Airport.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the applicability of—

(1) the requirements and processes under section 46319 of title 49, United States Code;

(2) the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(3) the requirements and processes under part 157 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; or

(4) the public notice requirements under section 47107(h)(2) of title 49, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2759.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2759 releases the city of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport.

The bill will require the city to pay fair market value for the airport property to the Missouri Department of Transportation, repay the unamortized value of Federal grants to the Missouri Department of Transportation, and transfer any remaining revenue to the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I wish my Republican colleagues were not rushing to consider this bill without more deliberation. The other body just passed this bill last week. We have had no hearings on the bill, no committee meetings, no markups.

I understand that several general aviation groups have expressed concerns about the bill, and I would have liked the opportunity to hear from them and study their specific reservations.

Each of the Nation's federally-assisted airports is part of a system—a national system—that is greater than the sum of its parts. The Federal Government invests \$3.35 billion a year in airport improvements because each airport in the system not only drives economic growth, but also is a safe harbor for a pilot in distress.

For those reasons, the general rule is that we invest in airports, not close them; nevertheless, I understand that the airport in St. Clair, Missouri, which this bill would allow to close, presents some unique circumstances.

Although the Federal Government has invested almost \$1.1 million in the

airport since 1963, the airport has not received a Federal grant since 2006 when it received \$300,000. There are now only about eight aircraft movements at the airport a day. Community leaders believe that there are simply higher and better uses for the airport land.

Based on these extraordinary circumstances, this bill would allow the city of St. Clair to close the airport and would release the city from its obligations as a recipient of Federal airport improvement funds, provided the city transfers remaining grant funds and the market value of the land to the Missouri Department of Transportation.

While I have serious reservations about the precedent that this bill could set, I recognize the unique situation in this particular case. Going forward, I urge my colleagues to think long and hard about what it means for our national system of airports when we start permitting airports to shut down without working through the Federal Aviation Administration's administrative process.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER).

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2759. This bill, introduced by Senators MCCASKILL and BLUNT from Missouri, authorizes the closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport in St. Clair, Missouri, once all obligations to Federal taxpayers have been repaid. St. Clair is a small town of 4,700 in my district, about 50 miles southwest of St. Louis.

The city has operated an airport since the sixties, but in the past decade, a consensus within the community has been reached that the airport should be closed and the land utilized as part of a larger economic development plan for the region. This effort has broad support in the city of St. Clair from the mayor, the city council, the school board, the fire district, and the local chamber of commerce.

The only thing holding up this plan is the continued reluctance of Federal regulators to give the go-ahead. The city approached the Missouri Department of Transportation in 2008 and the FAA in 2012, seeking closure of the airport, but the FAA keeps moving the goalposts, giving itself multiple extensions and leaving this small town confused and frustrated, with no end in sight.

As a small business owner myself from a town even smaller than St. Clair, I can tell you that red tape from Federal regulators is one of the biggest obstacles to economic growth in small communities. This legislation provides a simple fix to what has become an unnecessarily complicated issue in this community's attempt to provide growth opportunities in its area.

I should note that there are three other general aviation airports within a 30-mile radius of St. Clair, and the

Missouri Department of Transportation has indicated the closure of the airport will not have an adverse effect on aviation in Missouri.

Under the bill, in order for the city to qualify for the release from the FAA, it must transfer amounts previously used for the airport's capital improvements toward the improvement of other general aviation facilities in the area. Under S. 2759, taxpayers will be made whole, and the city will be permitted to move forward with new economic development plans.

S. 2759 is bipartisan and has passed the Senate unanimously. Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation so we can take a step forward in cutting through this red tape for the people of St. Clair, Missouri.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2759.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMES M. CARTER AND JUDITH N. KEEP UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1378) to designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the "James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1378

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JUDICIAL CENTER DESIGNATION.

The United States Federal Judicial Center located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, shall be known and designated as the "John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center". The Judicial Center includes the Federal property located at 221 West Broadway, 333 West Broadway, 880 Front Street, 325 West F Street, 808 Union Street, and the adjoining plaza.

SEC. 2. COURTHOUSE BUILDING DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, shall be known and designated as the "James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse".

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Federal

Judicial Center referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center". Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 2 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1378, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1378 designates the United States Federal Judicial Center located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center. The bill also designates the United States Courthouse in San Diego, California, as the James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse.

John S. Rhoades, Sr., was a United States Federal judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California for 22 years. Before Judge Rhoades began practicing law, he served in the United States Navy during World War II. Early in his career, he practiced law for the city of San Diego, California, as a prosecuting attorney and as deputy city attorney.

Judge Rhoades was nominated by President Ronald Reagan in 1985 to serve as a Federal judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, where he served until his death in 2007.

Judith N. Keep was nominated as a judge to the United States District Court for the Southern District of California in 1980 by President Jimmy Carter and served for 24 years. She was the first female Federal judge in her district. She later became its first female chief judge, serving in that capacity from 1991 to 1998. She continued to serve until her death in 2004.

James M. Carter was nominated by President Harry S. Truman as a judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California and served for 17 years, including 2 years as chief judge. In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Carter to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, where he served until his death in 1979.

□ 1500

All three of these judges demonstrated their dedication to the Nation and the law. It is fitting to honor

their work by naming the judicial center and courthouse after them.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) who is the author of this bill.

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today to support my legislation, H.R. 1378, to designate the Federal Courthouse on West Broadway in downtown San Diego as the James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse, and to designate the Federal Judicial Center in San Diego as the John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center.

In San Diego's collaborative spirit, in order to find a name for the new building, the San Diego legal community reached out to find ideas, and through this process some prominent jurists clearly emerged.

These jurists were enthusiastically touted by a bipartisan coalition, including the San Diego County Bar Association, our district's Federal judges, and both Republican and Democratic community leaders across San Diego.

Judge Carter was the moving force behind the creation of the Southern District of California. After its creation, he became the first Chief Judge of the District Court, serving in that position until he was appointed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Keep was instrumental in opening up the San Diego legal field to women. She graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law as its valedictorian and went on to become the first female judge for the District Court of the Southern District of California, and later the District Court's first female Chief Judge.

This bill also honors Judge John Rhoades, who served as a Federal judge in San Diego for 22 years and was widely respected and beloved throughout the region's legal community.

Judges Carter, Keep, and Rhoades all served the public with distinction and reflected the San Diego legal community's shared values of excellence and integrity. I am proud to honor their legacy with this legislation.

I want to thank two of my colleagues in particular, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS, who represented this area before I did and led this effort for the past several years, and Congressman DARRYL ISSA for his support and great amendments to the bill. It is better because of his work.

I am proud to have worked with them both in this Congress to move it forward.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers, so I urge adoption of this bill and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I too urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1378, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the United States Federal Judicial Center located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the 'John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center' and to designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the 'James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CLAY HUNT SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR AMERICAN VETERANS ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5059) to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5059

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act" or the "Clay Hunt SAV Act".

SEC. 2. EVALUATIONS OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) EVALUATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide for the conduct of an evaluation of the mental health care and suicide prevention programs carried out under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each evaluation conducted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) use metrics that are common among and useful for practitioners in the field of mental health care and suicide prevention;

(B) identify the most effective mental health care and suicide prevention programs conducted by the Secretary, including such programs conducted at a Center of Excellence;

(C) identify the cost-effectiveness of each program identified under subparagraph (B);

(D) measure the satisfaction of patients with respect to the care provided under each such program; and

(E) propose best practices for caring for individuals who suffer from mental health disorders or are at risk of suicide, including such practices conducted or suggested by other departments or agencies of the Federal Government, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(3) THIRD PARTY.—Each evaluation conducted under paragraph (1) shall be conducted by an independent third party unaffiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such third party shall submit to the Secretary each such evaluation.

(b) ANNUAL SUBMISSION.—Not later than December 1 of each year, beginning in 2015, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that contains the following:

(1) The most recent evaluations submitted to the Secretary under subsection (a)(3) that the Secretary has not previously submitted to such Committees.

(2) Any recommendations the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF INTERNET WEBSITE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to publish the Internet websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary shall survey the existing Internet websites and information resources of the Department to publish an Internet website that serves as a centralized source to provide veterans with information regarding all of the mental health care services provided by the Secretary.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The Internet website published under subsection (a) shall provide to veterans information regarding all of the mental health care services available in the Veteran Integrated Service Network that the veteran is seeking such services, including, with respect to each medical center, Vet Center (as defined in section 1712A of title 38, United States Code), and community-based outpatient center in the Veterans Integrated Service Network—

(1) the name and contact information of each social work office;

(2) the name and contact information of each mental health clinic;

(3) a list of appropriate staff; and

(4) any other information the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) UPDATED INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the information described in subsection (b) that is published on the Internet website under subsection (a) is updated not less than once every 90 days.

(d) OUTREACH.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the outreach conducted under section 1720F(i) of title 38, United States Code, includes information regarding the Internet website published under subsection (a).

SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM FOR REPAYMENT OF EDUCATIONAL LOANS FOR CERTAIN PSYCHIATRISTS OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to repay loans of individuals described in subsection (b) that—

(1) were used by such individuals to finance education relating to psychiatric medicine, including education leading to—

(A) a degree of doctor of medicine; or

(B) a degree of doctor of osteopathy; and

(2) were obtained from any of the following:

(A) A governmental entity.

(B) A private financial institution.

(C) A school.

(D) Any other authorized entity as determined by the Secretary.

(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), an individual eligible for participation in the pilot program is an individual who—

(A) either—

(i) is licensed or eligible for licensure to practice psychiatric medicine in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

(ii) is enrolled in the final year of a residency program leading to a specialty qualification in psychiatric medicine that is approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education; and

(B) demonstrates a commitment to a long-term career as a psychiatrist in the Veterans Health Administration, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) PROHIBITION ON SIMULTANEOUS ELIGIBILITY.—An individual who is participating in any other program of the Federal Government that repays the educational loans of the individual is not eligible to participate in the pilot program.

(c) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select not less than 10 individuals described in subsection (b) to participate in the pilot program for each year in which the Secretary carries out the pilot program.

(d) PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with each individual selected under subsection (c) in which such individual agrees to serve a period of two or more years of obligated service for the Veterans Health Administration in the field of psychiatric medicine, as determined by the Secretary.

(e) LOAN REPAYMENTS.—

(1) AMOUNTS.—Subject to paragraph (2), a loan repayment under this section may consist of payment of the principal, interest, and related expenses of a loan obtained by an individual who is participating in the pilot program for all educational expenses (including tuition, fees, books, and laboratory expenses) of such individual relating to education described in subsection (a)(1).

(2) LIMIT.—For each year of obligated service that an individual who is participating in the pilot program agrees to serve under subsection (d), the Secretary may pay not more than \$30,000 in loan repayment on behalf of such individual.

(f) BREACH.—

(1) LIABILITY.—An individual who participates in the pilot program and fails to satisfy the period of obligated service under subsection (d) shall be liable to the United States, in lieu of such obligated service, for the amount that has been paid or is payable to or on behalf of the individual under the pilot program, reduced by the proportion that the number of days served for completion of the period of obligated service bears to the total number of days in the period of obligated service of such individual.

(2) REPAYMENT PERIOD.—Any amount of damages that the United States is entitled to recover under this subsection shall be paid to the United States not later than one year after the date of the breach of the agreement.

(g) REPORT.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date on which the pilot program under subsection (a) commences, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The number of individuals who participated in the pilot program, including the number of new hires.

(B) The locations in which such individuals were employed by the Department, including how many such locations were rural or urban locations.

(C) An assessment of the quality of the work performed by such individuals in the course of such employment, including the performance reviews of such individuals.

(D) The number of psychiatrists the Secretary determines is needed by the Department in the future.

(3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days before the date on which the pilot program terminates under subsection (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives an update to the report submitted under paragraph (1) and any recommendations that the Secretary considers appropriate.

(h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section, including standards for qualified loans and authorized payees and other terms and conditions for the making of loan repayments.

(i) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out the pilot program shall expire on the date that is three years after the date on which the Secretary commences the pilot program.

SEC. 5. PILOT PROGRAM ON COMMUNITY OUT-REACH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a pilot program to assist veterans transitioning from serving on active duty and to improve the access of veterans to mental health services.

(b) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) at not less than five Veterans Integrated Service Networks that have a large population of veterans who—

(1) served in the reserve components of the Armed Forces; or

(2) are transitioning into communities with an established population of veterans after having recently separated from the Armed Forces.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—The pilot program at each Veterans Integrated Service Network described in subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) A community oriented veteran peer support network, carried out in partnership with an appropriate entity with experience in peer support programs, that—

(A) establishes peer support training guidelines;

(B) develops a network of veteran peer support counselors to meet the demands of the communities in the Veterans Integrated Service Network;

(C) conducts training of veteran peer support counselors;

(D) with respect to one medical center selected by the Secretary in each such Veterans Integrated Service Network, has—

(i) a designated peer support specialist who acts as a liaison to the community oriented veteran peer network; and

(ii) a certified mental health professional designated as the community oriented veteran peer network mentor; and

(E) is readily available to veterans, including pursuant to the Veterans Integrated Service Network cooperating and working with State and local governments and appropriate entities.

(2) A community outreach team for each medical center selected by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (1)(D) that—

(A) assists veterans transitioning into communities;

(B) establishes a veteran transition advisory group to facilitate outreach activities;

(C) includes the participation of appropriate community organizations, State and

local governments, colleges and universities, chambers of commerce and other local business organizations, and organizations that provide legal aid or advice; and

(D) coordinates with the Veterans Integrated Service Network regarding the Veterans Integrated Service Network carrying out an annual mental health summit to assess the status of veteran mental health care in the community and to develop new or innovative means to provide mental health services to veterans.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the pilot program under subsection (a) commences, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program. With respect to each Veterans Integrated Service Network described in subsection (b), the report shall include—

(A) a full description of the peer support model implemented under the pilot program, participation data, and data pertaining to past and current mental health related hospitalizations and fatalities;

(B) recommendations on implementing peer support networks throughout the Department;

(C) whether the mental health resources made available under the pilot program for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces is effective; and

(D) a full description of the activities and effectiveness of community outreach coordinating teams under the pilot program, including partnerships that have been established with appropriate entities.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days before the date on which the pilot program terminates under subsection (e), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives an update to the report submitted under paragraph (1).

(e) CONSTRUCTION.—This section may not be construed to authorize the Secretary to hire additional employees of the Department to carry out the pilot program under subsection (a).

(f) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary to carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is three years after the date on which the pilot program commences.

SEC. 6. COLLABORATION ON SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND NON-PROFIT MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may collaborate with non-profit mental health organizations to prevent suicide among veterans as follows:

(1) To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of suicide prevention efforts carried out by the Secretary and non-profit mental health organizations.

(2) To assist non-profit mental health organizations with the suicide prevention efforts of such organizations through the use of the expertise of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) To jointly carry out suicide prevention efforts.

(b) EXCHANGE OF RESOURCES.—In carrying out any collaboration under subsection (a), the Secretary and any non-profit mental health organization with which the Secretary is collaborating under such subsection shall exchange training sessions and best practices to help with the suicide prevention efforts of the Department and such organization.

(c) DIRECTOR OF SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall select

within the Department a Director of Suicide Prevention Coordination to undertake any collaboration with non-profit mental health organizations under this section or any other provision of law.

SEC. 7. ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS OF COMBAT SERVICE DURING CERTAIN PERIODS OF HOSTILITIES AND WAR.

Paragraph (3) of section 1710(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(3) In the case of care for a veteran described in paragraph (1)(D), hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care may be provided under or by virtue of subsection (a)(2)(F) only during the following periods:

“(A) Except as provided by subparagraph (B), with respect to a veteran described in paragraph (1)(D) who is discharged or released from the active military, naval, or air service after January 27, 2003, the five-year period beginning on the date of such discharge or release.

“(B) With respect to a veteran described in paragraph (1)(D) who is discharged or released from the active military, naval, or air service after January 1, 2009, and before January 1, 2011, but did not enroll to receive such hospital care, medical services, or nursing home care pursuant to such paragraph during the five-year period described in subparagraph (A), the one-year period beginning on January 1, 2015.

“(C) With respect to a veteran described in paragraph (1)(D) who is discharged or released from the active military, naval, or air service on or before January 27, 2003, and did not enroll in the patient enrollment system under section 1705 of this title on or before such date, the three-year period beginning on January 27, 2008.”.

SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON NEW APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and this Act and such amendments shall be carried out using amounts otherwise made available for such purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5059, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud support of H.R. 5059, as amended, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act.

In July, amidst the largest scandal—an accountability scandal—the Department of Veterans Affairs has ever faced, the committee heard testimony from three mothers whose sons had lost their lives to suicide following their service in our military.

One of those mothers was Susan Selke, the mother of Clay Hunt. Clay

was a Marine Corps combat veteran who served honorably in both Afghanistan and Iraq, where he was wounded in battle.

Despite suffering from post-traumatic stress upon his separation, Clay devoted himself to humanitarian work and advocated on behalf of his fellow veterans.

Nevertheless, in March of 2011, Clay took his own life at the age of 28. Tragically, Clay was far from alone in his struggle, and his family and friends are far from alone in their heartbreak.

On average, 22 of our Nation's heroes commit suicide each day, in spite of significant increases in VA's mental health and suicide prevention budget, staff, and programs over the last several years.

What is more, for some groups of veterans, including female veterans and veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, suicide rates are actually getting worse.

Mr. Speaker, we must do more to help these veterans. With the passage of H.R. 5059, as amended, which is named in Clay's memory, I think we will. The Clay Hunt SAV Act will help struggling veterans access the supportive services and mental health care they need to, hopefully, save their lives.

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of VA programs and increase awareness of available services, the bill would require an annual third-party evaluation of VA's mental health care and suicide prevention programs, and it would require that VA publish an interactive Web site to serve as the central source of information regarding VA mental health services.

To increase VA's capacity to meet the mental health care needs of our veterans, it would establish a pilot program to repay education loans for individuals who have received a degree in psychiatric medicine and who agree to work at VA for at least 2 years.

To create a seamless transition from Active Duty to veteran status and increase community support for those in need, it would establish a pilot program to assist veterans during transition and require VA to collaborate with nonprofit mental health organizations in their communities.

Importantly, the bill would also extend an additional 1 year of eligibility for VA health care services for certain combat veterans who have not yet enrolled and whose 5-year combat eligibility period recently expired.

Congressman WALZ from Minnesota introduced the bill, along with me and Congresswoman DUCKWORTH from Illinois. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to both of them for their service to our Nation in their uniform and in this Congress.

I am proud to say that this bill has the support of numerous groups of veteran service organizations, including Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans,

the Military Officers Association of America, and the Wounded Warrior Project.

The Clay Hunt SAV Act will not singlehandedly halt the scourge of suicide. The problems the VA health care system faces, and the mental health wounds of war that our veterans face, are far too deep for any single solution to resolve. But it is an important first step, and it is a step that we owe Clay and those like him who returned home from honorable service troubled in mind and in need of help.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5059, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5059, the Clay Hunt SAV Act, which was introduced in July of this year. It has 134 cosponsors, including myself, Chairman MILLER, and the chairman and ranking member of the Health Care Subcommittee. Congressman WALZ is the primary sponsor of this very important piece of legislation.

Over the years, the Veterans Affairs' Committee has taken steps to address the rise of suicide among veterans. In the 110th Congress we enacted the Joshua Omvig Suicide Prevention Act.

Earlier in this Congress we reported H.R. 4971, which included a measure sponsored by our colleague, Representative SINEMA, that would protect veterans who have worked in classified environments by ensuring that appropriate mental health care treatment options exist for them.

Today, we are acting again, by considering H.R. 5059, the Clay Hunt SAV Act. There are no easy answers or quick fixes to addressing veterans suicide. It will take a concerted effort for all of us in Congress, the White House, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense to work together to find real solutions. Veterans support groups, community employers, and families are part of the solution too.

H.R. 5059 takes a number of steps toward that goal. It will improve the safety net for at-risk veterans, while introducing some accountability into the Department of Veterans Affairs mental health care and suicide prevention programs, using a third-party evaluation.

It will provide veterans with a Web site that will serve as a centralized source of information on mental health services.

H.R. 5059 initiates a program to help address some of the glaring mental health personnel shortages at the Department of Veterans Affairs. While the incentives in this bill are limited to the psychiatric field, I would like to see this effort expanded in the future to all mental health professional shortfalls.

H.R. 5059 also takes steps to temporarily expand peer support networks,

which we have heard are quite effective. I believe the reports required by this bill will confirm additional resources that should permanently be dedicated to fully utilizing peer support.

H.R. 5059 also provides an additional window of eligibility for combat veterans who may have missed the window of opportunity to sign up for VA health care. This extra time will help to ensure that veterans receive the health care, including mental health care, that they need. I would encourage my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the First District of Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, the ranking member, and Mr. WALZ, thank you so much for introducing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support the Clay Hunt SAV Act. I am honored to be an original cosponsor of this important legislation.

As the father of a veteran, and a doctor who worked at the VA hospital in northern Michigan, I know that the challenges of military life do not end once our servicemembers return from active duty.

The mental wounds of war may be invisible, but no less real to the young men and women suffering from them. Facing high unemployment rates, the stigma of post-traumatic stress disorder, and the loss of military fellowship, returning veterans often face a crisis of confidence at the very moment they should feel nothing but relief and rest.

That is why our bill will help the VA to put the very best mental health professionals to work for our veterans and will create peer support networks to help catch those transitioning servicemembers who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

The time to act to address the epidemic of veterans suicide is now. With this bill, and with continued focus on the health of our veterans, and their mental health as well, we can make a real impact.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and pass the Clay Hunt SAV Act.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ). I want to thank Mr. WALZ for his continued effort to make sure that our veterans are taken care of in this great Nation of ours.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my thanks to Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD. I think an American public which, many times, thinks all politics is bickering and fighting and pettiness needs to see the two examples that these leaders

show, consistently putting the needs of our veterans first and foremost, finding areas to improve, and holding people accountable, but this piece of legislation, most importantly, finding solutions to make life better for our veterans. And for that, I am forever grateful to them for the work and for the staff that worked on this.

□ 1515

Ms. DUCKWORTH is not able to be with us today. I said a lot of times that people talk about patriotism and service and heroics. In TAMMY DUCKWORTH's case, you just state her name, and her life is a living testament to that, and she works every day. We are just happy she is with her little one now, but she had a big part in this.

There are very few things that unite this country in the security of our Nation and in the care of our warriors, as I think many of us know, as do the millions who have fought the conflicts and who have fought extremism across the globe—people like Clay Hunt, a young marine, who went and did his duty. He was wounded in Iraq.

That was not enough for Clay, so he went to Afghanistan, where he experienced some of the most horrific conditions you could imagine. That was not enough for Clay. He came home after he did his service in the Marine Corps, and he continued to serve. He went to Haiti, taking his skills that he had learned in the military to help after the hurricane.

Then he came and sat in many of our offices and had many conversations—everything from the GI Bill to the transitioning back of our warriors who are dealing with PTS and making sure that we address their mental health issues.

I know, for many of us, Clay was the epitome of American patriotism, of strength, of everything that is right, and it comes as such a shock. I know it sounds like a cliché, but how could someone so strong and who had done so much be dealing with these demons? We know he was, and we know this Nation didn't do enough. We know he didn't receive the adequate care that he deserved and had earned. To be quite honest with you, it is in our Nation's best interest, both morally and security-wise and everything else, to give them that.

Again, he didn't stop there, and his parents didn't stop there. His parents—his mother and father—are here in this Chamber, as are his friends, to make sure this never happens to another family. Our friends at the veterans service organizations, like the IAVA and Paul Rykoff and his folks and the VFW, have asked us to do better.

The result of this piece of legislation is the folks like Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, TAMMY DUCKWORTH, Mr. BENISHEK, and others who have come down here to speak. Our differences are small compared to our commonalities, and our care for our warriors has to be there. You heard

the specifics of this bill, some of the things that it will do.

There is not one of us who is kidding oneself that this is going to be the silver bullet, but it puts it on the forefront. It brings some solutions that came from our warriors, that came from best practices, that came from both sides of the aisle, and brought it forward to find real solutions.

The thing that most encourages me about this is that it is asking us, if things are not working, evaluate them and get rid of them, and bring the things forward that are going to work. Don't get buried in studies for 10 years. We don't have 10 years. We don't have 10 days for people. It is now.

That is, I think, the beauty of this piece of legislation. It starts to move those things forward. It starts to bring the communities back into this. It starts to understand a holistic approach to dealing with the issues of veterans' suicides, because this Nation cannot allow this to happen. We morally cannot. It attacks our soul when we do this. To be very honest, we can't afford to lose people like Clay Hunt.

Clay Hunt is our leader. He is our future leader. He is our business leader. He would at some point have been in this Chamber or wherever he would have chosen to have gone. That was his destiny, and this is happening over 22 times every day.

I encourage my colleagues to support this piece of legislation but, more importantly, to support the spirit that is behind it—bringing us together to get it right: to care for our warriors with the best possible use for our resources and an accountability to those resources to make sure that the outcome is most important.

That outcome is honoring our commitment to the reintegration of these warriors. Once they have done their service to this country, bring them home; make them whole; make sure that they are able to continue to serve this Nation as they wish.

For that, I am grateful. I am especially grateful for the leadership of Clay's family and of his mother, Susan, who absolutely said this can be done; this must be done; and it will be done. Thanks to these two gentlemen's leadership, it will.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the Second District of Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI), who is a stalwart supporter of veterans in her district and who has a great future ahead in veteran issues.

Mrs. WALORSKI. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Florida, the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, every day, 22 veterans take their own lives. Many of us in this Chamber have experienced this in our own districts. This has been a tragedy in my district as well. Sadly, on March 31, nearly 3 years ago, Clay Hunt was one of those 22 veterans who took his own life at the age of 28.

An Afghanistan and Iraq war veteran and suicide prevention advocate, Clay

Hunt epitomized what it meant to have a life of service both in and out of uniform. Today, we honor Clay and his family with H.R. 5059, the Clay Hunt SAV Act. Clay's story was one of bravery and dedication to our country.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps and served on several missions to Iraq and Afghanistan. After his final deployment to Afghanistan, his unit returned in October of 2008, and he was honorably discharged from the Marines.

Here is the key: Clay relied on the VA for medical care and received a 30 percent disability rating from the VA for PTSD. After realizing his PTSD is what prohibited him from keeping a steady job, he appealed the 30 percent rating and encountered a bureaucratic nightmare, including the VA's losing his files.

Clay had to wait months to get in to see a psychiatrist at a VA medical center. When he finally did, he told his mother he would never go back. Two weeks later, Clay took his own life. Five weeks after his death and 18 months after filing an appeal with the VA for his PTSD rating, Clay's appeal went through. His PTSD rating was 100 percent.

Too little, too late.

Clay's story details the urgency our Nation's heroes deserve in care. If we are going to lower this incredibly alarming rate of suicides, we have to improve the access and effectiveness of mental health care available to our returning heroes, and this step is a step in the right direction. The Clay Hunt SAV Act will increase access to mental health care and improve the quality of care that troops and veterans receive.

Together, we can change this system so no other veteran or spouse or parent will ever have to do what thousands of veterans have endured, including Clay. We owe it today to do what we can do and to continue the fight for our veterans, for what they have endured, and give them nothing but the best.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), the incoming ranking member for the Veterans' Affairs Committee, who has been a strong advocate for our veterans for the number of years she has been on the committee.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Thank you, Ranking Member MICHAUD.

First of all, let me just thank you for your service—your 12 years of service to this Congress—for what you have done for veterans throughout this country and also for working with you on transportation. I want to salute you for all that you have done. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I visited the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where part of the facility is named the Murtha Cancer Center. Jack Murtha was a friend of mine, and he was the biggest advocate in Congress for men and women who serve in our military. I am especially proud of the visitors' center at the Normandy American Cemetery in France.

I had the opportunity to visit this center not long after it opened in 2007. The visitors' center truly pays tribute to the soldiers who stormed the beaches. It gives visitors a true sense of what the men and their loved ones had gone through on that D-day. I am pleased to have worked with John Murtha, and I am pleased that his memory will live on in the Murtha Cancer Center at Walter Reed.

I rise in support of this legislation, introduced by Mr. WALZ, to help bring attention to the horrible problems that are affecting our Nation's veterans.

I am pleased that my colleague introduced this legislation, which will require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to arrange for an outside evaluation of their mental health care and suicide prevention programs. I am also requiring any servicemember who is discharged for posttraumatic stress disorder or brain injury or military sexual trauma to get treatment. Twenty-two veterans' suicides per day is too many. One suicide is too many.

Again, I want to thank Mr. WALZ for introducing this legislation.

Last night at the White House Christmas ball there were cards available for Members of Congress to sign that would be sent to servicemembers this holiday season. I have placed these cards in the Democratic cloakroom and in the Republican cloakroom, and I am asking for Members who would to sign these cards and send notes to our veterans throughout the world.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Florida (Mr. JOLLY), a colleague of mine and a fine member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. JOLLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5059, legislation to improve mental health and suicide prevention services for our Nation's veterans.

Across the country today, there are families grieving, remembering loved ones who, in a moment of tragedy, took their own lives. These families also have in common another memory—the day their loved ones put on the uniform of the Armed Forces for the first time, who raised their right hands and took an oath to defend the Nation, to defend and protect each of us.

In many ways, we as a nation have failed to defend and protect them. We have failed to ensure sufficient access to mental health care and suicide prevention services.

We have remarkable caregivers and mental health counselors in our VA and DOD health systems who are on the front lines of mental health services every day, who do remarkable work; but, administratively, we must do more. We must empower veterans to seek immediate care for mental health and suicide prevention services. We must incentivize mental health professionals to join the VA workforce and

deliver health care to our veterans, and we must improve the coordination between the VA and the DOD to deliver these services. This legislation does exactly that, and it is why it deserves our full support.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of national importance, but it is also a matter of personal conviction for many families, including for a mother in my district who, on Memorial Day of this year, at the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center at Bay Pines, approached me to share a story about the loss of her son who took his own life while awaiting enrollment in the VA, while awaiting mental health treatment from the VA. His mental health needs were left untreated, and he took his own life.

There are very few things more important for this body than to give voice to the voiceless. We are doing that today by speaking out about the tragic experiences of those who are no longer with us and by improving a health care system that provides remarkable care every day to our veterans but who need this Congress and this administration to enact much-needed changes. Mr. Speaker, this is critically important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in its passage.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, how many more speakers has the gentleman from Florida?

Mr. MILLER of Florida. We have one more speaker before I close.

Mr. MICHAUD. We have one more speaker, and I believe she is on her way.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the Sixth District of Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), a gentleman who does not serve on the committee with us but who has a very keen interest in veterans affairs issues.

Mr. ROSKAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, in listening to the debate and this discussion today, this is really a bill about real contrasts. The contrast, as the gentleman from Minnesota described a couple of minutes ago, is starting at a very high point, which is a sense of calling, a sense of patriotism, a sense of going forward and meeting a duty and joining the Armed Forces of the United States. That is one end of the spectrum. At the other end of the spectrum was the description that Mrs. WALORSKI had, and that was of Clay Hunt's experience.

From one end of the spectrum to the other.

As I was sitting and listening, Mr. Speaker, I was looking above your head. There is a clock over your head. If you look at these numbers, you have 22 people every day who are going to kill themselves, and we know that. If you think about that and if you look at that clock, you think, in a little bit more than an hour, there is going to be a terrible thing that is going to happen. The good news is that TAMMY

DUCKWORTH from Illinois and TIM WALZ from Minnesota and JEFF MILLER from Florida decided to do something about it.

The power of this is when you have that broad of a political spectrum that says we are not going to tolerate this, that we are going to make sure that this issue is not lost in the shuffle, that this is not a statistic, that this is not 22. Rather, these are people who are going to be named; these are people who are going to be discussed; and these are people who are going to be defended.

□ 1530

So I am happy today to join with those who are asking for favorable passage of the Clay Hunt SAV Act.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Providing sufficient and effective mental health care to our veterans is an issue that I believe we must focus on. It is an issue that I hope will bring comprehensive policies in the next Congress. Finding real solutions will require all of us working together and will require sufficient resources and dedication.

I know my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota, will be at the forefront of this fight, joined by Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member-elect Ms. BROWN, and all of the Republicans and Democrats on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. But I will not be in the House of Representatives next session to join that fight.

In my years in Congress, I have worked hard toward solutions that provide modern and effective care and benefits for our veterans. I have fought against inadequate budgets and for resources necessary to do the job. I have worked hard to improve the care and benefits of our newest veterans, while never forgetting our veterans from previous conflicts.

I have been encouraged by what we have all been able to accomplish together. But there is more that we have to do, and I know my colleagues will not give up the fight until we have won that battle.

But I do want to thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership, his support, and his friendship over the years. It has been an honor to work with Chairman MILLER, and it has been a pleasure to serve with him as well.

I also want to thank the members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, both past and present. They have been true colleagues, mentors, and friends.

I want to wish the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), our ranking member-elect, the best of luck, and I hope that she will enjoy her time as ranking member as much as I have enjoyed my time as ranking member.

And for the staff, both the majority and minority staff, they are the ones that make Members look good. They work very hard day and night to make sure that the policies that the mem-

bers of the committee want are put into legislation.

I can say truly that the majority and minority staff in this Congress has worked very well together. They have put aside the partisanship that other committees have not. So I thank them for their hard work and dedication to making sure that we do what we are here to do, and that is to serve our veterans.

There is no more noble calling than serving those who have served this great Nation of ours.

And to my colleagues here in Congress who are veterans and to America's veterans, I will simply say, thank you. Thank you for your service to this great Nation of ours. It is because of you that we are the country that we are today. You never turned your back. You never faltered. And some of you have made the ultimate sacrifice and have given your life for this country. So thank you for your service.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to support this bill and move it to the Senate.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would be remiss if I did not say thank you to the gentleman from Maine, MIKE MICHAUD. As the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, we, as a team, along with the members and the staff, have accomplished much this year, but it has all been done in a bipartisan way. We were able to move large pieces of legislation that will impact, in a positive way, veterans for years to come.

We uncovered probably the largest scandal that has ever been uncovered at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and we are now turning that agency in a direction to where it serves the veterans and not itself.

This wouldn't have happened without the steady hand of the gentleman from Maine, MIKE MICHAUD, as the ranking member. Again, he is a fine man. He has been a great Representative, and he is a friend that will be missed. I look forward to going to Maine one day and hunting moose with MIKE, whom I have pestered for 12 years to get a chance to go up and visit. But we will miss him, and we wish him well.

And with that, I want to take a moment to express my condolences and my appreciation to Clay's family, whom I understand are in the Capitol with us today, as well as to all the families of veterans who have lost their lives to suicide. My thoughts and my prayers are with each of them.

Once again, I encourage all the Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to help introduce H.R. 5059, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act with Chairman JEFF MILLER and Representative TIM WALZ.

This bipartisan bill, named after 28-year-old Marine Veteran Clay Hunt, who tragically took

his own life in March 2011, will reduce the barriers that prevent our Veterans from receiving quality mental health care.

It is a heartbreaking reality that twenty-two Veterans take their own lives each day. These are all casualties of war. As a nation, we are failing these brave men and women.

This legislation will task an independent, third party to annually review mental health care and suicide prevention programs and make recommendations on how to improve care. The bill also requires the VA to create a centralized source of information for all mental health services for Veterans. It will also address the shortage of mental health care professionals in order to ensure access to care as demand increases. Finally, through a pilot program, Veterans will receive reintegration assistance directly from the communities in which they live, fostering a smoother and more inclusive transition to life after the uniform.

Just as these Veterans remained faithful to our country on the battlefield, it is our turn as their Representatives to remain faithful to them. When our service men and women make the brave decision to seek help, we must ensure that they can get the quality assistance and treatment they deserve in a timely manner.

I urge all of the Members to support this legislation so that we can begin to turn the tide against suicide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALMON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5059, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN RALPH HALL

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this 1 hour Special Order for RALPH HALL.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Speaker for granting us this Special Order to honor Congressman RALPH HALL of the Fourth Congressional District and for granting me this time today.

Although Congressman HALL has been sidelined by a recent accident, he is blessed to be on the mend, and he hopes to express his thanks in person sometime next year. Hopefully he is watching on C-SPAN television right now from Rockwall, Texas. I cannot tell him how many Members wish him the speediest of recoveries and wish that he was with us now.

RALPH has asked me to put in the RECORD the following statement from himself:

"I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to those in the Fourth Congressional District who gave me their vote of confidence time and again, who gave me the benefit of their wisdom and good ideas, and who inspired me to do my best to represent their views and their vision in Washington. You will always be dear to my heart."

With that, I yield to the distinguished Congressman from Collin County, Texas, Congressman SAM JOHNSON.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor my fellow Texan and dear friend RALPH HALL.

It has been said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." RALPH embodies these very words. He is a man of honor and integrity, a fierce protector of freedom, and a great conservative. He is a shining example of all that is great about America and the great State of Texas.

RALPH and I have known each other a very long time. I won't say how long. We are blessed to represent neighboring districts. There is no greater friend and ally in Congress than RALPH. We have worked together on a number of issues. Recently, I was pleased to help RALPH with a zebra mussel water bill. That is an important law that helped provide clean water to north Texas.

Now, RALPH is known both around the Hill and back at home for his sense of humor. You might say that is why he has never met a stranger. Every person he meets is not just a friend, but a close friend.

On a more serious note, RALPH is also known for his faithful love of his late wife, Mary Ellen. If you ever visit with RALPH, he will tell you she was the person who encouraged him to enter public service, and since then, she was with him every step of the way.

When RALPH had his chairman portrait painted 2 years ago, he made sure Mary Ellen was a part of that portrait. That love and commitment speaks so highly of RALPH's character.

RALPH, as your colleague, I thank you for your service to your constituents, our great State of Texas, and our great Nation.

As your friend, I thank you for your sense of humor; but, more importantly, I thank you for your loyal friendship. D.C. won't be the same without you. God bless you. I salute you, RALPH.

Mr. BARTON. Thank you, Congressman JOHNSON.

Before I yield to Congresswoman GRANGER, I want to say that most of RALPH's Washington, D.C., staff is watching this.

Janet Poppleton, Christopher Roper Schell, Leslie Coppler, Jessica Carter, Mitzyn De La Rosa, and Van Carver: RALPH wanted me to thank you-all for your service to himself and to the people of the Fourth District of Texas.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlelady from the 12th District of Texas, the Honorable KAY GRANGER.

Ms. GRANGER. Thank you. It is such an honor to speak about our good friend RALPH HALL.

His background and what he has done is really amazing. He joined the Navy in 1942. He went to war. He came back and got an LLB from Southern Methodist University. He was admitted to the Texas Bar and became a county judge, the president of the State Judges and Commissioners Association. He was elected to the State senate and was president pro tem. Then in 1980, he came to the House of Representatives, where he still serves.

The most important thing in RALPH's life, something that JOE BARTON talked about—he said: "If you are going to talk about how important my life is, you are going to talk about my wife, Mary Ellen," the love of his life. They married in 1944 and were married until she passed in 2008.

But we are really not talking about what RALPH HALL did but who RALPH HALL is. Anyone who met him one time, the first thing you think about is that great smile. He was always smiling. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a joke on his lips. There is no one who tells jokes better than RALPH HALL. He has always got a story, and he has always got a joke.

I had to go to The Dallas Morning News for an endorsement at the editorial board one time, and, unfortunately, RALPH was interviewed right before I was. I walked in and they were still laughing at his jokes. No one could even think of a question for me for a while. But he was just that kind of a person. Never said a mean thing about anyone but told a lot of jokes on a lot of people.

So I wish RALPH were here sitting in this Chamber with us tonight, but because of his accident, he is not. But I know he is watching it.

I will say to RALPH, we miss you, and we wish you the very best. It has been wonderful. We are all better for having known you. Thank you.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, before I introduce Congressman NEUGEBAUER, I have already put one statement in the RECORD that RALPH wanted me to read, but by electronic device, he has sent a second statement.

So this is another direct quote from Congressman HALL:

"Although sidelined by a recent accident, I am blessed to be on the mend and hope to express my thanks in person some time next year. It has been a great honor and privilege to represent the good people of the Fourth Congressional District for the past 33 years. I thank them for their vote of confidence over the years, for their wisdom and good ideas, and for inspiring me to represent their views and their vision to the best of my ability."

With that, I yield to the Congressman representing Lubbock, Texas, where the Ennis Lions will play a high school football game this Friday night, the Honorable RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

□ 1545

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my friend and colleague, Congressman RALPH HALL. You look at RALPH's life, and it is a record of service to his country. It began in 1942 as a young lieutenant flying an aircraft off of an aircraft carrier. After the war, RALPH came back to this country and started work in the private sector, creating jobs and expanding the economy in Texas.

Later, RALPH would be the county judge for Rockwall, Texas, and then later would be elected as a Texas State senator. In 1980, he was elected to the United States Congress to represent the Fourth District of Texas, where he has represented that district with distinction.

If you ever traveled in RALPH's district and you stop at the 7-Eleven and you stop to get a little gas and you mentioned RALPH HALL, people's faces light up because I bet everybody in RALPH's district has met RALPH because one of the things that he was very diligent about doing was making sure that the people in his district felt represented.

Since his election, he has worked tirelessly here in Congress on a number of issues, and I had the honor and privilege to serve on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee with RALPH. One of the things I appreciated most about RALPH and I think most of us appreciated is RALPH's sense of humor. Now, that didn't stop him from really asking very direct and grilling questions of witnesses that would come before our committee, and sometimes, it would be a tense moment, but RALPH always had something funny or a story to tell that kind of broke the ice.

You see a number of members of the Texas delegation are here today, particularly the Republican delegation. Every Thursday, we have lunch together and talk about what is good for Texas. The thing that we always looked forward to was we couldn't wait until RALPH got there so RALPH could share a funny story. One of the things that I will miss most about RALPH is

those times when he would be on the floor or he would be at lunch sharing those stories.

Now, one of the things about RALPH is that, as he got older, he got wiser. In fact, he got so wise in 2004 that he realized that he needed to be a part of the Republican Party, so he switched from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party, and we were so glad to welcome him to that.

As I said, it has been an honor and a privilege, RALPH, to be part of your team on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and it has been a great honor to be one of your colleagues. More importantly, RALPH, we want to thank you for your friendship, your kinship, and, most importantly, your service to this great Nation and to the State of Texas.

With that, we say, RALPH, job well done, God bless you, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Mr. BARTON. I want to thank the gentleman from Lubbock.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the Congressman from the 25th Congressional District of Texas, Mr. ROGER WILLIAMS. Under the newest configuration, he is the only Congressman to ever represent that district, so they must love him.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here today with my Texas colleagues and say a few words about our most treasured friend, mentor, leader, and hero, RALPH HALL. RALPH's lifetime of service to his country and fellow man are full of victories, as we already heard, and highlights too numerous to count.

As a young lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, RALPH served his country and flew planes in World War II. Once the next Congress convenes, we will sorely miss the only two remaining World War II veterans currently in Congress, also including Congressman DINGELL.

RALPH HALL has an appreciation for America that very few of us can understand. He understands sacrifice, he understands service, and he understands putting one's self aside for the greater good.

My friend has always been an accomplished businessman, having successfully served in a number of executive roles in the private sector. He brought his business savvy and military experience to Congress, which undoubtedly contributed to his reputation for being one of the most respected and well-liked Members we have ever had.

His ability to bring humor into every situation was not just to get a laugh; it was his unique way of bringing different viewpoints together to find common ground.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman RALPH HALL has served north Texas well and deserves recognition for his many legislative accomplishments. I am grateful to have served with my friend and a patriot whose leadership, spirit, and statesmanship will always be greatly missed.

I wish him all the best as he continues to serve Texas, America, and his

community back home. I will always pray for RALPH and his family.

Mr. BARTON. I want to thank you, Congressman.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the Congressman from the First Congressional District, deep east Texas, the soft-spoken Congressman LOUIE GOHMERT.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be here honoring RALPH HALL. He has been my Congressman for many years; and, in fact, after being on the bench for about 10 years, I had a feeling that perhaps I ought to legislate, and I wouldn't do it from the bench. But my Democratic Congressman RALPH HALL, from conversations, he talked like I did—I hope that is not disrespectful to RALPH—but I told him, as long as he is my Congressman, I didn't have any need to run because he would represent me well.

Then we had redistricting in 2003, and it opened up a different district. But I felt that way then, if he had stayed my Congressman, I never had a need to run, so some wish we didn't have redistricting.

As I hear people talk about his age, I think about RALPH saying that when he turned 90, somebody on his staff said: "Congressman HALL, would you rather we didn't mention to people that you are 90?" He said: "No, I am fine with that. I would a lot rather you say he is 90 than, 'Doesn't he look natural?'"

Having been with RALPH yesterday there in Rockwall as he is going through rehab, actually, he doesn't look natural at all, he looks great, and we just look forward to the days when he is fully out of the wheelchair and that rod in his leg is not bothering him as much as it is now. We miss him very much.

He did also provide me a quote that struck him having been chairman of the Science Committee. This is a quote RALPH sent:

We are reminded of the responsibility given to us by the scripture engraved on the hearing room wall of the Science Committee from Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Well, RALPH's eyesight was 20/20. He could see where we have been, and he could see where we were going. It was an honor, a pleasure, and a real privilege to serve with my friend, RALPH HALL.

Mr. BARTON. I thank Congressman GOHMERT.

I now yield to the gentlewoman that represents part of Dallas County in Dallas, Texas, the Honorable EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, who comes from the same hometown as I do: Waco, Texas.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I am delighted to join you in saying some words about RALPH HALL, my friend.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor and privilege to serve with my colleague and friend. We had some laughs just recently when I visited him about our history and working together in elective office.

Our relationship goes back to when I was in the Texas house—and I left the Texas house in the seventies—talking about things that we remembered. I really regret that he is not here today, but he wanted to be, and he planned to be, but he is not going to make it today.

As all of you have had the pleasure of serving with RALPH, we are missing out on several jokes and stories. Some of them were really funny, and some can't be said in some places, so I won't try to match him in storytelling.

I am going to tell you a little story that happened when RALPH switched parties. I called him and called him and called him and called him, and I couldn't get through, nor did he return my calls until I finally said, "Well, just tell him I still love him, and I don't care what party he is in."

Thirty seconds later, he returned my call, and he said, "I just couldn't take another bawling out from a woman." He said, "I have gotten it from my sister. I got it from my wife."

I said, "But do you know what? Probably nobody understands more than I do because I have been watching your numbers." So it never interfered with our relationship.

When he was chair of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, two of the years that he was chair, I was the ranking member. He never hesitated to reach across the aisle to try to reach consensus. Really, that is the kind of spirit we need now. I will miss him for that. I will miss him because of the history we both shared.

Our districts used to come right next to each other. Now, there are a couple of people that come in between us, but it won't divide our friendship, and I look forward to our continued friendship for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I have learned so much from him. I remember when I first came, he was the person who taught me how to make arrangements to go home every week with the airline that we use and also taught me how to find rooms and shortcuts of how to get where you need to go on this Hill, which is rather complicated when you first get here. He will be greatly missed.

He has meant a lot, and he has done a lot. The space exploration program will be forever grateful to him. The Science, Space, and Technology Committee research and all it stands for will always have RALPH HALL as a part of its history.

I appreciate the opportunity to have had a chance to work with him, to know him and his family, and to wish him well.

Mr. BARTON. I want to thank you, Congressman JOHNSON.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the Congressman from Fort Bend County, Sugar Land, Texas, a Navy pilot himself, as RALPH HALL was in World War II, the Honorable PETE OLSON.

□ 1600

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for that kind introduction.

May 3, 1923, RALPH HALL was born in Fate, Texas. There could not be in the whole world a better name to describe a man's life than being born in Fate, Texas.

Fate touched RALPH in many ways. RALPH is a young man in Rockwall, Texas, pumping gas as a teenager. Guess who drove up and bought gas from my friend RALPH HALL? Bonnie and Clyde, the gangsters.

Mr. BARTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OLSON. Yes, sir, I will yield to my friend.

Mr. BARTON. There is no proof of that. I know the Congressman actually states it as a fact, but I have repeatedly asked him to prove it, and he has absolutely failed. So that is an urban myth of the Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. OLSON. Reclaiming my time, my friend said, when he saw them, he didn't know who they were, but he got a quarter, a maximum amount of money for a tip. He walked in so proud to show his boss what had happened; he had gotten a huge tip. The paper was there right beside the floor. He saw this man and this woman. He pumped gas for those two felons.

Now, when he told his boss who they were, he called the local sheriff. The sheriff said: Thank you so much for calling. I have gotten a call about two stray dogs. Once I catch those dogs, I will go after Bonnie and Clyde.

Fate and RALPH HALL, but fate didn't stop there.

As was mentioned, RALPH was a naval aviator, a pilot in World War II. He did his flight training in Pensacola, Florida. He was there with a marine, a guy named Ted Williams, The Splendid Splinter, batted .403 in 1941.

Mr. BARTON. Will the gentleman yield on that point?

Mr. OLSON. I yield to my friend for a minute, yes, sir.

Mr. BARTON. Well, while the Bonnie and Clyde story is more fiction than fact—RALPH would have been pumping gas at the ripe old age of 8 or 9 years old for that to be true—the Ted Williams story is fact and is true.

Mr. OLSON. I thank my friend.

The story is RALPH knows Ted is there. He is in the Marines, part of the Navy. RALPH has an idea—baseball game against Army. I will take all their paychecks. I have got Ted Williams. The day of the game comes, knocks on Ted's door, he had some fishing gear: HALL, let's go fishing.

RALPH tried to stop him.

Ted, Ted, I have told my wife Mary Ellen I am coming home with a big paycheck. I bet my whole paycheck on this game. RALPH held the fence up so Ted Williams could go AWOL. Navy lost the game and RALPH had it rough at home with Mary Ellen.

Fate touched RALPH HALL one more time. As the chairman of the NASA

committee here in Congress, RALPH HALL is friends with great Americans. This picture shows the greatest, that man right there named Neil Armstrong, the first American to walk on the Moon. Next to him, Colonel Tom Stafford, another Apollo astronaut; and right by the microphone there, Captain Gene Cernan, the only man to go to the Moon twice, on Apollo 10 and Apollo 17.

Fate touched RALPH HALL's life. Fate touched our lives by giving RALPH HALL to us. He is America's best. He is Texas' best.

RALPH, we love you. God bless you. Bravo Zulu. May you have fair winds and following seas.

Mr. BARTON. I thank the gentleman from Sugar Land. I now yield to Congressman GENE GREEN, who represents the Houston ship channel and the battleship Texas and other such notable Texas landmarks.

Mr. GREEN.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am not so sure about a noted Texas landmark, but I want to thank you for scheduling a Special Order for our good friend, RALPH HALL.

I rise to pay tribute to a great American who has dedicated his life to protecting and serving our Nation and the great State of Texas, Representative RALPH HALL, a true gentleman.

RALPH began his commitment to service seven decades ago when he joined the United States Navy and served as an aircraft carrier pilot during World War II. Returning to Texas after the war, RALPH began private law practice in Rockwall, Texas, where he served as county judge in the 1950s and represented that area in the Texas State Senate from 1962 to 1972.

That is when I first met RALPH HALL, because in 1972 he ran for Lieutenant Governor in Texas in the Democratic primary. There were a few other folks in that race, so RALPH didn't make it into the runoff. But RALPH was elected to Congress in 1980 as a conservative Democrat, where he served our State honorably on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Science Committee, where he was chairman from 2011 to 2013.

In 2003, RALPH became a Republican. His votes were always conservative, though. My job in the 1990s as a deputy whip on the Democratic side was to whip Texas Members. So I would go to RALPH, and he was the distinguished gentleman. And that is just not a title; he really was. He would tell me, he said: Well, GENE, what do you want me to do?

I said: Well, RALPH, I want you to vote thisaway.

He said: You know, GENE, I can't really do that.

I said: Well, RALPH, can you vote late?

RALPH was always a conservative, no matter what Republican or Democratic label he had. I had the honor of serving with RALPH in Congress since 1993 and on the Energy and Commerce Com-

mittee since 1997, and RALPH has always been, like I said, a true gentleman to me and to all I have ever seen him work with.

I will best remember RALPH as a true hero of Texas who was a committed public servant, either in uniform or elected official, and always stayed true to his beliefs and did everything he could for his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman HALL will be sorely missed by all of us, and I want to thank him for both his hard work and dedication for years, but more importantly for his friendship to a lot of Members—not just Texans, but a lot of Members in Congress. RALPH will be very fondly remembered.

Mr. BARTON. Now I yield to the distinguished Congressman from, I believe, Flower Mound, Texas, in Denton County, the Honorable MICHAEL BURGESS.

Mr. BURGESS. Well, thank you, chairman, and thank you for calling this hour together.

Of course, the ranks of those who are able to capably deliver a narrative in this House suddenly have gotten a little thinner, but I did have the opportunity to sit down and visit with Mr. HALL just a few days before Thanksgiving, and I know how intense was his desire to be here and be able to talk on the floor today on his own behalf.

RALPH, sadly, that didn't come to pass. I hope you are able to watch today. I hope you are able to hear the accolades of all of your colleagues. We miss you, RALPH. We wish you nothing but the best going forward.

Again, the ranks of the capable narrative deliverer here in the House of Representatives has gotten a little thinner at the end of this term.

Mr. BARTON. I now yield to Mr. BLAKE FARENTHOLD, the Congressman from Corpus Christi, Texas.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Thank you, Chairman BARTON.

It is great to be here to talk a moment or two about my good friend RALPH HALL. When I was first elected to Congress a few years back, RALPH was one of the first people that I met, being a Texan, and I tell you, he has the kindest heart and always has a smile on his face and a good joke ready at hand.

You know, people ask me: What do you see as your career as a Congressman? Who do you look up to? Where do you see your career in Congress going?

I might want to grow up to be RALPH HALL.

Then some of his adversaries said he was getting too old to be in Congress, and RALPH jumped out of a perfectly good airplane. I had to rethink, "I want to grow up to be RALPH HALL," after he jumped out of a perfectly good airplane.

But I tell you, it is a reflection of the courage and dedication that a man like RALPH HALL has. RALPH was committed to serving Texas and the folks that he represented, and he would go to any length, including jumping out of a

perfectly good airplane, to continue to serve.

It was an honor and a privilege to have spent 4 years of my life as a colleague of RALPH's, and it has been the greatest 4 years of my life. It is an honor and privilege to have served with him, and he truly will be missed.

I appreciate the opportunity, Chairman BARTON, to be on the floor today to acknowledge my friend and, quite frankly, one of my strongest mentors here in Congress, RALPH HALL.

God bless you, RALPH. We are going to miss you.

Mr. BARTON. I now yield to the gentleman from the 14th District of Illinois, Congressman HULTGREN.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is such a privilege to be able to say a few words for my good friend and my chairman, chairman of the Science Committee when I first was elected to Congress 4 years ago. I had the privilege of serving under Chairman HALL on the Science Committee. A couple memories that I have of so many committees that I went to where the committee would stop because we were laughing so hard with a statement or comment or joke, perfectly timed joke that Chairman HALL would put in, and so I enjoyed that time so much.

My wife and I had an incredible privilege this summer. We have, among ourselves here in Congress, some wonderful people we get to serve with. A few of them truly are heroes, and one of those heroes is RALPH HALL. We had the privilege of going to the 70th anniversary of D-day to recognize those World War II veterans, and RALPH HALL was with us on that trip. We all loved being there, but everybody wanted to be with RALPH HALL—again, a true hero. To be in that place with RALPH HALL was a great, great honor for my wife and me.

My greatest memory since I have been here over the 4 years was with Chairman HALL, and that was in the Science Committee and having the privilege of sitting about 10 feet away from Neil Armstrong and Captain Gene Cernan—the first man to walk on the Moon and the last man to walk on the Moon, people who changed the trajectory of this Nation and this world—and having the opportunity to talk with them and get to know them and to hear their amazing story, but also the humility that they had, that same humility that Chairman HALL has. Just a privilege to serve.

RALPH, we love you. I wish so much that you could be here today to be able to express your own heart for the privilege I know that you felt serving in this incredible place, serving the wonderful constituents you have in Texas. But I want you to know that we love you, we miss you, we are praying for you, and we are excited to see, hopefully soon, a full recovery for you. We are looking forward to having you back here and hearing those great jokes once again.

So, RALPH, I want to let you know that we are pulling for you and excited again for all that you have done and all that you are going to do.

Mr. BARTON. I would now like to yield to Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, the gentlelady from Houston, Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I thank him for holding this Special Order for a very dear friend to all of us, RALPH HALL.

I guess my opening remarks would be that, if you took the greater percentage of all of us Members of the House of Representatives, everyone would rise up and say "my good friend RALPH HALL" and really mean it, for he was a good friend and is a good friend to all of us on both sides of the aisle.

When I came to the United States Congress, I went to the Science Committee, and there was RALPH HALL, fighting for the issues that were not only impacting the Nation, but were impacting our great State. No one could doubt that RALPH HALL was a champion for Texas, a champion for the space exploration program.

I used to love getting with him on the floor of the House and strategizing how we could continue to make sure that our human space exploration, our astronauts, and the great research that is done by NASA carries on.

Certainly, as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, he was astutely concerned about the issues of energy, but also health care and many others.

He loved his family, and he forever reminded me of a time when he came to Houston and he had to see his grandson, who is now grown, and I am sure one of RALPH's favorite grandsons, if you will—he loves his family—when he had to get a ride to the hospital where his grandson was, and of course we are so grateful that he recovered. He always tells everyone that I went 30 miles out of my way to take him to that hospital, and I can say to you I did it with joy.

He was always grateful and thankful for friendship and kindness, and he was kind. And I must say that, if he didn't have a career in the United States Congress, he could be a stand-up comic because his timing was everything; his jokes were unique. I don't think they were written anywhere, and of course he was always saying them.

Let me also say, since he has had such a long history, he reminded me of his friendship with the Honorable Barbara Jordan and his friendship with Mickey Leland, two of the predecessors of my particular district.

And then I would offer to say the same remarks that were mentioned just earlier about how excited he was to be in Normandy for the 70th commemoration and have our own special iconic hero, RALPH HALL, who was honored by the French and honored by many. He was a regular hero and a dynamic hero as we went about the town.

My hat is off to RALPH. I know that he will be well. I know that he knows that we love him. But, more importantly, let me salute him as a great American who has served his Nation with dignity and honor and respect and

integrity, and who walks the pathway of a congressional person that respects the dignity and integrity of this House and, as well, the friendship of Democrats and Republicans because he calls everyone an American.

Mr. BARTON. I now yield to RANDY WEBER, the Congressman from the 14th District from Friendswood, Texas.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you may have heard about the revered Halls of Congress, but let me say that there is no more revered HALL of Congress than that of RALPH HALL. Let me tell you why that is.

□ 1615

RALPH HALL was a true Texan and a great American. He is a great example to us all.

As a true Texas gentleman, time and time again, I have seen him demonstrate the art of tact. He once described that art of tact as making someone feel at home when you wish they were.

As a true Texas gentleman, he could do that. As a true Texas gentleman, I saw him time and time again use the art of diplomacy. He explained to me: "Randy, you know, diplomacy is being able to tell someone to go to Hades and make them happy to be on their way." RALPH had that gift.

Let me tell you, RALPH HALL—and I am going to list some descriptions of him alphabetically. He was American through and through. He was charming. He could turn that charm on. You have heard many of our speakers talk about that. He was committed. He was serious about what he did. Elegant. He was a picture of elegance. You could just see it in the way he moved and the way he worked. Funny. Gosh, he was so funny. The fact is I think he was cut out to be a comedian, but he was probably sewn together wrong. Gosh, he was funny at times. Gracious. A true Texas gentleman. A mentor to us, he could be stern when necessary. Strong. Did I mention Texas through and through? Witty. In short, RALPH was a great example.

Mr. Speaker, I end with this acronym. When I think of RALPH—R-A-L-P-H—I think of R, he was real, he was Republican. I think of A, he was American. I think of L, he was a leader. And then I think of P, RALPH was principled. And then I think of H, and he is a hero.

I will end with this—his last name HALL. H stands for hero, A stands for American, and both the Ls stand for the lasting legacy he is going to leave here in the Halls of Congress. When it comes to the Halls of Congress, there is none better than RALPH HALL.

RALPH, we love you, we bid you a great American and a great Texan farewell, but only temporarily. Don't be a stranger.

Mr. BARTON. I thank the gentleman.

I now want to yield to the Honorable DANA ROHRBACHER from California's 48th District in Orange County.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. I have served in the House of Representatives now for 26 years, and I have met good people and bad people, and I have met people I agree with and whom I like and people I disagree with and I like. We are reflective of the American people.

People ask me, "What do you think about the United States Congress?" And I always say, "It reflects what the American people are all about."

This is the House of Representatives where we represent all of these parts of our country. Well, RALPH HALL was one of those Representatives who represented the goodness in America and the greatness in America. RALPH HALL was first and foremost, I believe, a patriot who put that above every other one of his considerations.

I was proud to know RALPH. RALPH is still with us, so we shouldn't think of RALPH as being gone from the Earth. For Pete's sake, RALPH is still here, and I hope he is listening right now because we wish him all the best. RALPH HALL is a great American still, but he has left his legacy here behind.

I worked with RALPH on the Science and Space Committee, as they called it, at least they did then—Science, Space, and Technology. RALPH has made enormous contributions to the well-being of our country in two areas in particular.

Number one, he did much to help direct America's space program and keep it a viable effort on the part of the United States to utilize space for the benefit of humankind and, of course, for the purpose of the United States to become a dominant power in the next frontier. His leadership was indispensable to creating the potential that we have today of accomplishing great things in space. And to the things that we have already accomplished, RALPH was right in the middle of it, making sure that job got done.

He also very involved with energy development. I know that there is a little bit of confusion that just because someone is from Texas that they are going to be backing up the oil companies and things such as that. RALPH was a guy who, yeah, he believed in the oil industry, and he was grateful to the oil industry for the good things that it has provided us, the fact that energy and the production of energy is so important to our national well-being. But he was also a man who understood that science was going to develop new methods of energy and was always pushing our committee and the Science Committee to be on the cutting edge of research and development.

When you get people here running for Congress, they run for Congress because they have strong ideas and ideals, often which don't agree with one another. You can imagine trying to get legislation through committees and on the floor of the House, et cetera, when you have people who are having to interact but have different points of view. Well, tensions at that moment can be a blockage to making things better.

RALPH, if anything else, was the guy who was able to eliminate the tension in the air that was getting in the way of getting something done because he had the best sense of humor of any other Member I have ever, ever come across. RALPH, by doing that, kept this body a productive body, and we weren't at each other's throats.

One last note. My father was a pilot during World War II and he flew in the Pacific. I have a very special place in my heart for RALPH HALL and all those guys because RALPH HALL, too, was a pilot in World War II in the Pacific. He is the godfather to us all.

RALPH, we respect you, we honor you, we love you, we are grateful to you for what you meant to our lives and what you have done to help make our country better off. Thank you. God bless.

Mr. BARTON. I want to thank you, Congressman.

I now want to yield to the gentleman from the Fifth District in Dallas, Texas, the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, the Honorable JEB HENSARLING.

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise to honor my dear friend and this great patriot from Texas, next door to me in Dallas, RALPH HALL. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, I feel most inadequate to the task.

There are a number of Members who come to the House floor and some provide humor. Few have provided more humor than RALPH HALL at times when this body critically needs it.

Some Members come to this body and they become well respected. Certainly that is RALPH HALL.

Some are well liked. That is also RALPH HALL.

Some distinguish themselves for their accomplishments. RALPH HALL will take second place to no one on what he has been able to accomplish in his House career.

Then there is a handful, Mr. Speaker, of true American heroes. RALPH HALL served our Nation with courage and distinction in World War II.

My point, Mr. Speaker, is that I am not sure I know any Member who combines them all: respectability, likability, humor, effectiveness, and being a true American hero.

We will miss RALPH HALL. We will miss his wit. But, do you know, Mr. Speaker, even more so I think I will miss his wisdom because there are many times that we have debated various issues either among, perhaps, the Texas delegation or the House as a whole, and occasionally the voices may get a little loud, perhaps the debate gets a little bit confused, and then almost out of nowhere RALPH HALL comes in and imparts his wisdom, and it is like a ray of sunshine piercing the darkness, and I will say, "Yes, that makes sense," and we come together as Members of Congress for the good of America.

I heard the previous speaker speak about it. There is so much we could say

about RALPH and his accomplishments. But how ironic in some respects that the oldest Member of the House was so much on the cutting edge of science and technology and has helped this institution lead America into this century. When RALPH HALL has spoken, when he has led, so many have followed.

There are many reasons that it is a privilege to serve in the United States House of Representatives. But one of the great privileges is the people that you meet. There have been none nicer, none wiser, and more accomplished than RALPH HALL.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss, Texas will miss, America will miss RALPH HALL when he leaves this body.

Mr. BARTON. I thank the gentleman.

I now yield to the gentleman from Round Rock, Texas, the distinguished JOHN CARTER.

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about my friend RALPH HALL. An amazing man. He has done just about anything adventuresome you can think of in your life.

This is the man that tells us that he was a little boy when Bonnie and Clyde went through, and I think he is telling us the truth.

He tells me that he was a fight promoter, and I know he was a fight promoter—I heard it from other people—who turned down a young man from Kentucky named Cassius Clay because he thought he had a glass jaw.

He is a man that served in the wild and wily Texas Legislature and Texas Senate. He once ran for attorney general, and he said he looked in the mirror and thought he saw the attorney general, and it turned out there was another guy that he was seeing in the mirror.

He served in this House both as a Democrat and a Republican and is loved by both parties and respected by both parties.

He had an amazing talent for carrying humor around as a tool of friendship. I just want to share one small thing that livened up a crowd like I have never seen before.

We were at the laying of the keel of the aircraft carrier *George Herbert Walker Bush*. There were about 50 or so people sitting down in chairs in the hot sun. They put a bottle of water under each chair. I was sitting next to RALPH on the front row. He looked down there underneath his chair and he saw that bottle of water. All these people were sweltering behind us waiting for the thing to start. He reached down, he picked up the bottle of water, he got up, and he turned around to the crowd behind him and he said: "Somebody nice put a bottle of water underneath my chair. Who's got the scotch?" The crowd just started laughing, everybody relaxed, and the ceremony began.

RALPH made friends like nobody else. He is my friend. I think every Member of this House considers him a friend.

He is a great American, a great Texan, and I am going to miss him dearly.

Mr. BARTON. I thank the gentleman. May I inquire how much time I have remaining, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, we have had a number of Congressmen come on the House floor and tell anecdotes about RALPH, about how funny he was and how smart he was, and they are all—at least the ones about how smart he was—very true.

We have heard the urban myth about waiting on Bonnie and Clyde, which I do not believe is true. We have heard about Ted Williams and RALPH and Ted playing on the same baseball team in World War II, and that is true. We have heard about the offer to serve as a fight promoter for Cassius Clay, who later became Muhammad Ali, and that is true.

A few more that you may not know: He was good friends with the Hunt brothers in Dallas and Clint Murchison, who was the original owner of the Dallas Cowboys. At one time, he was asked to be general counsel for what we today call the NFL, which he turned down.

□ 1630

I got to know RALPH when I got elected in 1984. He and I served districts that touch each other. We both live in our districts in Texas, and so we became good buddies because we were always on the first flight to Texas after the last vote at the end of the week and on the last flight before the first vote to Washington at the beginning of the week.

Once we built up enough frequent flyer miles, when there was a complimentary upgrade—we never spent taxpayer dollars to fly in first class—we would fight over who got seat 4F. Because RALPH sweet-talked the special service people at American Airlines, he always won. The only time I have ever gotten seat 4F on American Airlines was when RALPH was not on the plane.

You have heard about the fact that he used to be a Democrat. He was until 2003 or 2004 when he switched parties. One of the first times that I realized how important RALPH HALL was is when the first President Bush won the election to be President of the United States. They called a special meeting over at the Capitol Hill Club on behalf of the National Republican Campaign Committee so that the Republicans in the Congress, who were in the minority, could have a meeting with the incoming President. We thought that was pretty special.

There was a stir in the crowd. We thought it was the President coming in, and it was. The President walked into the room of the Eisenhower Lounge, which the Republicans will know is on the first floor at the Capitol Hill Club.

Before the President began to speak, there was another stir. Through another door that I have never seen used who do you think came into the Capitol Hill Club but RALPH HALL.

Now, what is surprising about that is that at the time, RALPH HALL was a Democrat. RALPH HALL had endorsed George H.W. Bush for President when he was a Democrat, and so he got special recognition at that Capitol Hill meeting.

There have been many great Members from Texas that served in the House since our creation as a State in 1845, Mr. Speaker. Some of the ones that I have enjoyed working with in my tenure are people like Bill Archer of Houston, Jake Pickle, Steve Bartlett, and Sam Hall, but none has been more beloved and none has been more effective than RALPH HALL of Rockwall, Texas.

I have some other things to say, but I see that others are here, so I yield to Mr. WAXMAN, the chairman emeritus and current ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to RALPH HALL, particularly for his earlier years in the House of Representatives when he was a Democrat. He came on the Energy and Commerce Committee early.

We sometimes think about Democrats and Republicans. He became a Republican. He had been a conservative Democrat. Everybody on both sides of the aisle held him in the highest respect because he was a man of integrity and honesty. When he gave you his word, you could count on it.

RALPH and I became friends. I hope that friendship will continue into the future. I want to express to him, his constituents, and his family and friends my admiration for him as a person and my respect for him as a legislator.

I know it is common to say that even though we didn't agree on all things, it didn't make any difference. He always tried to do what he thought was right. As a result, he earned my respect and that of everyone else.

Mr. BARTON. I yield to Mr. SMITH, the chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), my colleague, for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, today, we honor the distinguished service of our friend and colleague, RALPH HALL of Texas. If there were a congressional hall of fame, Representative HALL would be a first-ballot inductee. His many years of service were highlighted at the end of 2012 when he became the most senior Member of Congress to ever cast a vote in the House. His career has spanned 34 years.

Since he was 19 years old, he has made his contributions to our country. As a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II, he served as a pilot. Since then, he has never hesitated to

accomplish a mission. That mentality has made him a distinguished Member of Congress and a very effective chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Throughout his time in Congress, RALPH HALL has served this institution with style and humor. RALPH always said, "I'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington." RALPH has actually achieved that rare combination of both. We thank him for his service to Congress, to the great State of Texas, and to our country.

RALPH has asked me to pass along his comment, "I am especially partial to my friends from the Texas delegation who represent their district so well and whose integrity and hard work have benefited not only our State, but also our Nation. I thank you for your friendship and countless acts of Congress."

Mr. BARTON. I now yield to the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, time is short this evening, but it is such a privilege to be here to honor RALPH HALL.

Proverbs tell us that our good name is worth more than all the gold and silver on Earth, and that is certainly true of RALPH HALL, someone who I immediately bonded with when I came to Congress in 2001.

RALPH has been a mentor, teacher, and a dear, good friend. I could always—as we all could—count on RALPH to do the right things for the right reasons and be a man of his word. His first priority throughout his time here was to do right by the State of Texas.

As LAMAR said so ably, RALPH always believed it is better to be respected at home and make sure the folks there knew what a good job he was doing for them. It was a real privilege for me to be able to serve with that good man. We will surely miss him.

What a privilege to be here tonight to honor him on this special evening.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. UPTON.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would just say that RALPH HALL is an amazing man. I served with him on the Energy and Commerce Committee a lot of years. I had the luxury of sitting next to him. We have a lot of great stories, that is for sure.

I can remember when he came back to the Science Committee, and we said that we had yet another Texan. He said, "When I'm done, you'll wish that you had another 10 or 12."

Mr. BARTON. RALPH, we love you. We will miss you. You are a great guy. We will see you soon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest gratitude for the privilege to represent the good people of the Fourth Congressional District of Texas for the past 33 years. Other than my faith and my family, this has been the greatest blessing of my life and one for which I will always be grateful.

My service spans 5 Presidents and 7 Speakers of the House, and at the age of 91½, I am the oldest Congressman in the history of the House of Representatives—a record that was set at the slightly younger age of 89½. I have had the privilege of serving alongside some of the most dedicated and influential leaders in America's history—men and women on both sides of the aisle whose integrity and hard work have served our Nation well.

To all of you—former and current Members of the House—I thank you for your leadership and for your friendship. It has been an honor to work with you, and we have had our share of agreements and disagreements on many issues. I respect each of you and the people you represent back home—and I am proud to call so many of you my good friends.

I have been fortunate to serve on two great Committees—the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee—throughout these 33 years, with the exception of a two-year leave of absence from Energy and Commerce.

When I first came to Congress after the 1980 election, future Speaker Jim Wright asked me what committees I would like to serve on. I asked for Energy because Texas is an energy state, and I asked for Science and Space because of the importance of the space program to our Nation and the role of the Johnson Space Center in Houston. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to serve on both of these.

The Science, Space, and Technology Committee has helped define the vision and establish the course for our space program, the International Space Station, and scientific research and development. The Energy and Commerce Committee has spurred energy development and innovation, telecommunications breakthroughs, and healthcare reforms, just to name a few. To the members and Chairmen of these Committees, I express my gratitude for your leadership, hard work, and collaboration.

A special thanks goes to Speaker BOEHNER and our Leadership for their confidence in naming me as the Ranking Member of the Science Committee for four years and as Chairman of the Committee in the past Congress, for allowing me to return to Energy and Commerce after the leave of absence, and for granting a waiver to serve on the Science Committee again in this Congress. I also want to express my gratitude to my good friend and Texas colleague LAMAR SMITH, Chairman of the Science Committee, for naming me Chairman Emeritus for the 113th Congress.

I am of course partial to the Texas Delegation—to this great group of men and women who not only represent Texas so well but who also have such a strong commitment to our Nation's prosperity and security. We are like family, and I thank you for your friendship and countless acts of kindness.

As Members of Congress, we could not perform our duties without the aid of dedicated and loyal staff. To my wonderful staff who have guided my office operations and supported me with their hard work, advice, and friendship, I will always be indebted. A special thanks also goes to the talented and dedicated staff of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee who supported me so ably as Ranking Member and as Chairman.

And once again, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to those in the Fourth Con-

gressional District who gave me their vote of confidence time and again, who gave me the benefit of their wisdom and good ideas, and who inspired me to do my best to represent their views and their vision in Washington. You will always be dear to my heart.

As I bid farewell to this great body, I do so with an abiding faith in this institution and in the commitment of those who work here. We are reminded of the responsibility given to us in a scripture that is engraved on the hearing room wall of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee—Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Throughout my more than 50 years of public service, in the State of Texas and here in Washington, America has faced many challenges, and there are many still facing our Nation today. At 91 years of age, I am looking forward—not back—and I am confident that my colleagues will continue to strive to achieve a vision that is worthy of this great Nation, our people, and our children and grandchildren. May God bless your efforts, and may God continue to bless America.

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend and colleague, the Dean of the Texas Congressional Delegation: Congressman RALPH HALL of the Fourth District of Texas. RALPH has served the Fourth District with unqualified distinction since his first election in 1980. Throughout his service to the Fourth District and the United States Congress, he always focused on his constituents and at the end of the day, what is best for America and her future.

Twenty years ago when I arrived as a young Congressman, RALPH, being a kind and generous man, reached out and helped me. While he may have forgotten, I remember his kindness to this day. Many are asking him to write a book, and I hope he does. Readers would enjoy his great sense of humor and deep understanding of Texas history.

Mr. Speaker, December 7, 2014 marked the forty-third anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. I want to recognize two departing members who were veterans of World War Two (WW II). First, RALPH HALL joined the United States Navy in December 1942 and served as an aircraft carrier pilot from 1942 to 1945 rising to the rank of Lieutenant (Senior Grade). Secondly, JOHN DINGELL, joined the United States Army in 1944, rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant. And, Mr. Speaker, I should point out that JOHN is the not only the Dean of the Michigan Delegation but also, the Dean of the House of Representatives.

Unfortunately, RALPH and JOHN are departing at the end of this session of Congress. With their departures, when the 114th Congress convenes in January 2015 and for the first time since the 113th Congress convened last year, Congress will be without a member of Congress who served in WW II.

Throughout RALPH's congressional career, he would seek compromise and reach across the aisle to ensure legislation was passed in a bi-partisan manner. RALPH represents what is best about Congress when members work together towards a common good and not for a sound bite.

RALPH was a distinguished member of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee. In, 2013, he was named Chairman Emeritus of the committee for his focus on promoting science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. Further, RALPH

was instrumental in: Ensuring sound science precedes any regulations imposed by the Administration, advancing research and development (R&D) for new technologies to keep America Competitive, expanding production of America's abundant energy resources and seeking alternative sources to reduce costs and increase national security, and maintaining America's preeminence in space.

RALPH will be sorely missed by the Texas Delegation, Members of Congress and their staffs of the United States House of Representatives. RALPH, I wish you fair winds and following seas. Godspeed, my Friend.

Mr. Speaker, there is no one like Texas Congressmen RALPH HALL.

Congressman RALPH HALL is the oldest serving member of Congress, the oldest person to ever serve in the House of Representatives, the oldest person ever elected to a House term and the oldest House member ever to cast a vote. Mr. HALL is also the last remaining Congressman who served our nation during World War II.

And for all of these accomplishments, I would like to thank and congratulate RALPH one more time for his service to the country and his leadership in the Texas Congressional Delegation.

Born in Fate, Texas on May 3, 1923, HALL did not know of his successful future which was ahead of him. At the age of 19, HALL enrolled into the U.S. Navy where he served as a lieutenant and combat aircraft carrier pilot from 1942 to 1945 during World War II.

After serving for three years, HALL then went on to finish college and received his LL.B. from Southern Methodist University in 1951. He was admitted to the Texas Bar, and practiced law in Rockwall. Mr. HALL also participated in the business side of Rockwall where he took part in serving as President/CEO of Texas Aluminum Corp., General Counsel of Texas Extrusion Co., Chairman of Lakeside News, Inc., and was a founding member of Lakeside National Bank in Rockwall where he currently serves as Chairman of the Board. RALPH had the calling to serve Texas in the political arena in Texas politics, a combat sport. So he began his public service from 1950 to 1962 when he served as County Judge of Rockwall County, Texas.

Mr. HALL also served as President of the State Judges and Commissioners Association in 1958–1959. From 1962 to 1972, Mr. HALL was elected and served as a Texas State Senator where he served as President Pro Tempore in 1968–1969.

Congressman RALPH HALL was first elected to serve the 4th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1980 and has been re-elected to each succeeding Congress.

On November 27, 2012, Congressman HALL became the oldest member in the U.S. House of Representatives to ever cast a vote. The following month, on December 25, 2012, he became the oldest-serving Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in recorded history.

Congressman HALL always ensured to serve his people and made sure their voice was heard on different issues throughout Congress. A noteworthy quote Mr. HALL often said was "I'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington."

RALPH is a hardcore Texan with the unique knowledge of understanding all people from the rich and famous to the infamous and downtrodden. He was a proud conservative

democrat and personally knew the likes of LBJ, Speaker Sam Rayburn, Muhammad Ali, baseball great Mickey Mantle, war veteran Audie Murphy, Senator John F. Kennedy, Ted Williams, President Ronald Reagan, Texas Governor John Connally, Texas Governor William "Bill" P. Clements, Jr., Texas Governor Ann Richards, Texas Governor Rick Perry, Curtis Cokes, General Tommy Franks, Lieutenant General Tom Stafford, astronauts Gene Cernan, Buzz Aldrin, Neal Armstrong, U.S. Representative Ray Roberts, U.S. Senator Phil Gramm, famous aviator Claire Chennault, President George H.W. Bush, President George W. Bush, U.S. Senator JOHN CORNYN, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen, T. Boone Pickens, H. Ross Perot, Red Adair, Bo Derek, Chuck Norris, Ted Williams, Tom Hanks and The Ink Spots. He works well with both Republicans and Democrats, but he "got religion," in 2004, and became a Republican. Never forgetting his Democrat roots, he commented, "Being a Democrat was more fun."

RALPH HALL always has a story and a new, but often used joke. He runs 2 miles a day and certainly symbolizes the best of the Greatest Generation. RALPH HALL's service and leadership has shaped him into an important role model that members of the Texas Delegation in Congress, on both sides of the aisle admire. His dedication and love for his public service illustrates how success is attainable when mixed with hard work and determination, along with a love of America and of course, Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, one word that will always be synonymous with RALPH HALL is 'gentleman.'

I met Congressman HALL when I was first elected to Congress in 1993 and was appointed to the Science, Space and Technology Committee where he served as Chairman at the time when he was a Democrat. As Chairman of the Committee, his bipartisan work there was marked by promotion of science, technology, engineering and math education; advancing American competitiveness through research and development of new technologies; and maintaining our country's preeminence in space.

I've never known Congressman HALL as a person who rests. His work as a policymaker will endure, and he is a natural politician with a knack for coalescing conflicting viewpoints.

Congressman HALL is also one of the kindest Members in Congress. His geniality helps make this institution a better place for the American people. And no matter who you are—astronaut, president, or next door neighbor—Congressman HALL is always one to put a generous hand forward.

I wish Congressman HALL every blessing together with his three sons and five beautiful grandchildren. I'm grateful to know him, to have served with him, and to call him my friend.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we honor the distinguished service of our friend and colleague, RALPH HALL of Texas.

If there were a congressional "Hall of Fame," Representative HALL would be a first ballot inductee. His many years of service were highlighted at the end of 2012 when he became the most senior member of Congress to ever cast a vote in the House of Representatives.

RALPH's career in the House of Representatives and his commitment to his constituents in the 4th District of Texas spans 34 years. But his contributions to our country began before that.

Since he was 19 years old, RALPH has led a life of service. As a lieutenant in the Navy during World War Two, he served as a pilot, and since then has never hesitated to accomplish a mission.

That mentality has made him a distinguished member of Congress, and a very effective Chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Throughout his tenure, RALPH has been a consistent advocate for scientific research and development.

As Science Committee Chairman he worked to ensure that business owners are not burdened by excessive EPA regulations.

RALPH has fostered programs to better understand extreme weather and to ensure that citizens are prepared for natural disasters.

He has worked to advance science education and programs that promote technological breakthroughs to benefit future generations.

And throughout his time in Congress, RALPH HALL has served this institution with style and humor.

RALPH HALL has always said, "I'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington." RALPH—you actually have achieved that rare combination of both. Thank you for your service to Congress, to the great state of Texas and to our country.

RALPH has asked me to pass along his comment, "I am especially partial to my friends in the Texas Delegation who represent their districts so well and whose integrity and hard work have benefited not only our State but also our Nation. I thank you for your friendship and countless acts of kindness."

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to thank our colleague, and my friend, RALPH HALL for his years of service in the House of Representatives. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. HALL for many years in the Science Committee, and I have always appreciated the way he has gone about his job. Mr. HALL has always been a public servant in the truest sense of the word. His lifetime of service began with his service in the navy as an aircraft carrier pilot during World War II. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mr. HALL and other members of the greatest generation for fighting to preserve the freedoms that we all hold dear. Once he left the armed services, Mr. HALL's service continued in the Texas state legislature before moving on to DC to begin his distinguished service in the House beginning in 1981.

As Science Committee Ranking Member and Chairman, Mr. HALL did a great deal to keep up the proud history we have in this country of support for science and space exploration. During Mr. HALL's tenure, the Committee passed the original America COMPETES Act in 2007 as well as its reauthorization in 2010. These landmark bills helped increase funding for science and education to help the US keep pace in an increasingly competitive world. Though we have not always agreed on every issue, I know that Mr. HALL cares greatly about the US scientific enterprise and the economic benefits it has provided our nation over the years. Those of us that know Mr. HALL know him best for his stories and the

personable nature that he did business with. He will most certainly be missed in Congress.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, RALPH HALL has been a fervent and steadfast presence in Congress for almost thirty-five years.

Before coming to Washington, he served as a county judge and as a member of the Texas State Senate.

Before that he flew Hellcat fighters for the Navy during World War II; married the love of his life, Mary Ellen; and tells the story of working at his local pharmacy as a kid and selling a carton of cigarettes and a couple of bottles of Coke to the outlaws Bonnie and Clyde.

Congressman HALL has led an extraordinary and dynamic life, and he readily brought that energy to his work in Congress.

Serving with him on the Science Committee, and especially on the Space Subcommittee, has been a true honor. Congressman HALL has a deep respect for the basic science work done by NASA, especially that done aboard the International Space Station.

He has also been a firm champion of America's space exploration program—and it was in fact he who added the word "Space" back into the name of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology during the 112th Congress. As he has said many times, human space exploration is one of the best methods we have for engaging and inspiring the next generation.

I join my colleagues today in honoring RALPH HALL—who has inspired us all with his dedication to public service and to our nation.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of our Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, 21 years ago, January of 1993, I was sworn into the 103rd Congress as the 28th Representative of the historic First Congressional District of Illinois.

One of the first Members of Congress to welcome me with the most heartwarming words and smile was none other than my friend from the great State of Michigan, Congressman JOHN DAVID DINGELL, JR.

JOHN DINGELL has trained me, worked with me, and inspired me far more than most other Members of this House. I can't think of any other Member in Congress who has spent the kind of time and energy teaching me the ropes than JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN DINGELL, Mr. Speaker, will go down in U.S. history as being one of the most powerful House committee chairmen of all times. That is why, Mr.

Speaker, around Washington, D.C., throughout the Nation, and throughout this Congress, he was and will continue to be respectfully known as the "lion of the House."

While some may ascribe that honor to his forceful personality, Mr. Speaker, in my experience with JOHN and watching him operate as chairman, he used a scalpel more than a sledgehammer to score his legislative wins and to gather up and earn the respect of all the Members not only of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, but the Members of this House on both sides of the aisle.

Many will say that the secret to JOHN's success has been his unrivaled mastery of parliamentary procedures and institutional memory. I would agree that he has superb parliamentary knowledge of the parliamentary procedures, and there is a remarkable aspect to his institutional memory.

But what made JOHN DINGELL successful and a genuine American treasure—he was just last week awarded the highest civilian award that this Nation bestows upon an individual, the Presidential Medal of Freedom—is that he knows how to deal with people. He knows how to work with people.

JOHN doesn't go around talking about all his great exploits. I recall a few years back, Mr. Speaker, I was traveling to Michigan to campaign for JOHN. He was in a primary challenge. Little did I know that the man who I was championing had at one time been scorned in his own district because he voted for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I didn't know that about JOHN DINGELL. I didn't know that, but my respect for him mushroomed to the top even more than it had been before because he was a man who when he believed in something has the commitment and courage to stand behind his beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, JOHN means what he says, and he says what he means. Nobody can say anything different about JOHN DAVID DINGELL.

JOHN DINGELL, Chairman DINGELL, my friend, I wish you continued health. I wish you continued strength and prosperity as you leave this House of Representatives, this House of the people, and return to your family and friends and constituents in Michigan.

May God bless you and keep you. I will forever hold you dear. I will forever look toward your example in terms of committee work and work on this floor. I want to thank you, JOHN DINGELL, for all that you have contributed to this Nation, to your constituents, to this House, and certainly to the Committee of Energy and Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Texas, the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON.

□ 1645

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Thank you very much, Mr.

RUSH. I appreciate the fact that you are holding this hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise for the honor of the work of Mr. JOHN DINGELL who will retire this year as the longest-serving Member, with 59 years as a Michigan Representative. Since 1955, Congressman DINGELL has represented the southeastern Michigan area and served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and twice as chairman.

When I learned that Mr. DINGELL would retire at the end of this term, I was saddened to know that we would lose such a fine leader and advocate for social democracy; however, we must continue Mr. DINGELL's fight for all Americans.

He is well-known for his battles on behalf of civil rights, clean water, Medicare, and workers' rights. He is also the author of many pieces of legislation that enhance the protection of public health such as the Affordable Care Act.

While he expanded public health and advocated for environmental conservationism, Mr. DINGELL also combated corruption and waste via his chairmanship of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. He exerted strong, unwavering oversight of the executive branch through his committee, and his successes in Congress earned him the 2014 Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Through his career in Congress, he was willing and able to work across the aisle to accomplish tasks that made Americans' lives better. A true advocate for the people, Mr. DINGELL dedicated his life to ensuring that public health safety of the American people was always in the forefront. Whether authoring the Clean Air Act or the Patients' Bill of Rights, Mr. DINGELL was unwavering in his questions to protect Americans.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the accomplishments of Congressman JOHN DINGELL and join me in congratulating him on an outstanding career in public service.

Mr. RUSH. I thank the gentlelady.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member on the Judiciary Committee, the one who will ascend to the dean of the House, the legendary civil rights icon.

Mr. CONYERS. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker and members of the committee, I rise today to honor a true statesman in every sense of the word, the dean of the House, chairman emeritus of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and a champion of the people of Metropolitan Detroit, the Honorable Congressman JOHN DINGELL.

Now, I have had the distinct honor of working with Congressman DINGELL for the last six decades, first as a member of his congressional staff and then as his colleague in the Michigan delegation. Over these six decades, we have fought together successfully for Medicare, for clean air and water, for workers' rights, and most importantly, for civil rights.

Over these decades, he has succeeded at truly Herculean tasks, including passing the Endangered Species Act, the 1990 Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Affordable Care Act, the Patients' Bill of Rights, and the Children's Health Insurance Program, among many others.

Congressman DINGELL is a masterful legislator but, most importantly, a man of conscience. As he passes the torch on to another extraordinary leader, Congresswoman-elect Debbie Dingell, I am so proud to salute his legacy of compassion and service.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Texas (Mr. BARTON), the former chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. BARTON. I want to thank the Congressman from Chicago, the Reverend BOBBY RUSH, for recognizing me.

Mr. Speaker, we always in Texas refer to the former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn who served for 48 years as "Man of the House." In fact, there have been books written about Rayburn with that title, "The Man of the House." I am a six-generation native Texan, so I certainly would be considered to be somewhat Texas-centric.

In all honesty, I would have to say that the ultimate and true man of the House is the Honorable JOHN DINGELL of Michigan. His father served before him, elected, I believe, while President Roosevelt was President of the United States, and JOHN DINGELL literally grew up in the House of Representatives.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Roosevelt, I believe, the very next day, December 8, addressed a joint session of Congress in his famous Day of Infamy speech. JOHN DINGELL was on the floor to hear that speech in person, not as a Congressman, but as the son of a Congressman.

He got elected to replace his father when his father passed away in 1955 and, as has been mentioned, has served longer than any other Member of Congress in the history of this Nation. If you count not only his service in Congress, but the time he spent as a child when his father was in Congress, he has literally been in the House for almost a third of its existence as an institution.

I am not sure how many Members he has served with, but it is in the neighborhood of 2,500 Members that he has personally served with.

When I got elected to Congress in 1984, I did not get on the Energy and Commerce Committee in my freshman year, but I did my sophomore year in 1986. JOHN DINGELL was then chairman and was chairman until the Republicans took the majority in the election in 1994, so I served with Chairman Dingell for my first 10 years in the Congress.

He was a chairman in every sense of the word. The legislation that he helped craft during his chairmanship is some of the most important in the history of this Congress. Certainly, things

that he would be most proud of would be the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, some of the health care legislation, and some of the telecommunications legislation.

Those are laws that were passed under his chairmanship and are still the basic law in their field in this country.

When I became chairman in 2003, he was the ranking Democrat on the committee. He helped me, sometimes in public, sometimes behind the scenes. Even when he didn't agree with the legislation that the Republican majority was pushing, he was always thoughtful and giving me tips on procedure and process and sometimes policy.

When we passed a bill to move television from analog to digital, I wanted to put a date certain very quickly. With his counsel, he convinced me that we should draw that out, and he also said: "The final date of the transition shouldn't be until after the Super Bowl; just in case there is a problem, people will get to watch the Super Bowl and won't be cussing you and the Congress for moving from analog to digital." He was absolutely right on that.

With Chairman UPTON's leadership, who is on the floor this evening—several years ago, I went to Chairman UPTON and suggested that we ask the Speaker to name the Energy and Commerce main committee room on the first floor of the Rayburn Building, 2123, the JOHN DINGELL Room. Chairman UPTON thought that was a great idea. He recommended it to the Speaker, and that now is the John Dingell Room.

I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker, but I do want to say that we are truly losing one of the giants of the Congress when JOHN DINGELL retires at the end of this session.

He is still going to be here. His wife, Debbie, has been elected to succeed him, so hopefully, we will still see him in the Congress, but I really have difficulty imagining a Congress that JOHN DINGELL is not a member of. He will be missed. We honor him, and I consider it a personal privilege that he calls me a friend.

I thank the gentleman from Chicago for yielding me some time.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I want to just remind people that we have a growing list of speakers.

Mr. UPTON. Thank you, Mr. RUSH. I will try to be brief.

I do want to put a statement in the RECORD from Mr. CAMP who was here a little while ago and wanted to speak.

I just want to say, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. Chairman is what we still call him. I have known him since 1977 when I came here as a staffer, and I have got to say that he treated me just as well as a staffer, which was great, as he has as a colleague and now, for me, as chairman of the committee.

We are the best of friends. We really are. There have been a lot of different issues that we have worked on, and he took me under his wing a lot of years ago, and we discovered too that, for me, it is better to have DINGELL on our side than to be on a different side, but when he is on the other side, he is certainly a powerful adversary.

Our delegation in Michigan is pretty close. We are involved in so many different issues, jobs and the economy, particularly the auto sector is one of the things where JOHN DINGELL has really led and cared about.

As we know, he is the longest-serving Member of Congress ever in the history of this institution. He is cared about so well.

I can remember bringing over CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS from years past and, as JOE BARTON said, he served with some 2,500 Members here, actually going through the vote Journal on some of the big issues of the day, the Voting Rights Act and others, and actually talking about some of the Members and what they said on that particular day.

He was a fair chairman, always went by the rules, had a command of the issues, a brilliant staff, and their loyalty still exists today. Of course, the light of his life, the lovely Deborah, a great person who we know is going to be taking his place, serving those 700,000 people from southeast Michigan in the next Congress.

If you look back at his life, he has served his country from the first day through today, a World War II vet, something that he has always been so, so proud of, chairman of the most powerful committee here in the House.

In addition to all that, he has been a friend, a father, a husband, and a colleague whose word has always been his bond and who has defined the very utmost of what we would like this place to be. He is a great American.

Thank you, JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. RUSH. I want to thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the distinguished gentleman, Mr. RUSH, and I thank Mr. PALLONE for convening this Special Order and all of the members of this committee and Members of this House of Representatives that have come on the floor today with joy.

It is often said, "It is not how long you serve, but how you serve." For JOHN DINGELL, that is not mutually exclusive. He served six decades, and he served it greatly and grandly and with distinction.

I am reminded of a description of him as a 6-foot-3-inch distinguished gentleman, towering over witnesses, but having the biggest of hearts, coming from the best of legacies in his father that served 22 years, reminded of his commitment to the Clean Air Act, safe drinking water, the endangered species.

JOHN has always reminded us new ones, relatively speaking, that his

greatest love was to provide affordable health care to every American.

□ 1700

Decades after his father introduced such a bill, he never gave up.

So I stand here today to thank you, JOHN DINGELL, for the Affordable Care Act. They call it many things—"ObamaCare"—but I am getting ready to call it "DingellCare" because you worked without ceasing. Thank you for your service to this Nation, where you stood in the shadows of World War II and stood as an American, willing to serve.

I am grateful for the service that he has given and for his long years of service as the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Let me conclude by saying that there is much more that all of us can say, but you can see so many Members have come to the floor. On a personal note, there are two items that I want to acknowledge:

Thank you, JOHN DINGELL, for recognizing my voting rights—my opportunity to vote as an African American—and those of the thousands of millions that you helped in 1965. I will never forget your willingness to sacrifice personal political stature to do what is right. I also want to thank you so very much for being the kind of person on the floor of the House who asked about every Member. For every Member who came to your attention, you asked them how they were doing.

I conclude with these remarks, his final words about the Civil Rights Act. He said that he was glad to vote for a bill that solved a problem that was eating at the soul and heart and liver of the country.

Only JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN DINGELL. I salute you as a great and a grand American.

Thank you, Debbie Dingell. I will continue to look forward to your service.

JOHN, we are going to look forward to your service and, of course, to your long life here in this great country and in your great State of Michigan. Again, JOHN, thank you so very much.

Serving nearly six decades in the House of Representatives, JOHN DINGELL has earned the distinction of being both the longest-serving Member of Congress in U.S. history and one of the most influential legislators of all time.

After serving his country in the Army during World War II, JOHN was first elected to Congress in 1955—representing the people of southeastern Michigan in a seat previously held by his father.

In Washington, JOHN risked his seat to support the Civil Rights Act of 1964, fought to pass Medicare in 1965, and penned legislation like the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act that have kept millions of Americans healthy and preserved our natural beauty for future generations.

But of all JOHN's accomplishments, perhaps the most remarkable has been his tireless fight to guarantee quality, affordable health care for every American.

Decades after his father first introduced a bill for comprehensive health care reform, JOHN continued to introduce health care legislation at the beginning of every session.

And as an original author of the Affordable Care Act, he helped give millions of families the peace of mind of knowing they won't lose everything if they get sick.

One of the proudest moments in my career in the House was watching the distinguished gentleman from Michigan preside over debate on the rule for the Affordable Care Act.

Today, the people of Michigan—and the American people—are better off because of JOHN DINGELL's service to this country.

Ending a career that is among the most singular in congressional history, U.S. Rep. JOHN DINGELL—who helped pass, if not author, many of the most iconic legislative achievements of the last 60 years is, concluding a term of service to metro Detroit, Michigan and the nation unprecedented in its length and remarkable in its scope.

JOHN DINGELL's length of service stretches back to before Alaska and Hawaii were states and his father, John Sr., sat in the seat for 22 years before him.

Last June, he became the longest-serving member of Congress.

JOHN DAVID DINGELL, Jr., was 29 years old when the Detroit native was elected in a 1955 special election to serve out the remainder of his late father's term.

Since then, he has cast tens of thousands of votes and played a role in everything from the Civil Rights Act and Medicare to the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act and, in 2010, the Affordable Care Act.

Known throughout Washington as Big JOHN—at 6-foot-3, he literally towered over many witnesses before his House Energy and Commerce Committee—JOHN DINGELL cut a distinctive figure in the Capitol.

A progressive when it came to workers' rights, he is also a staunch defender of Michigan industries, including its automakers, and at times ran afoul of environmentalists.

He counts as among his most important accomplishments the creation of the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge and the River Raisin Battlefield.

In 1964, he voted for the Civil Rights Act. He called that vote the most important one he ever took—one that “solved a problem that was eating at the soul and heart and liver of this country.”

JOHN DINGELL vastly expanded the scope of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's purview during his first stint as chairman—which lasted 1981–95—to the point where it was said it handled four out of every 10 bills in the House.

By example, he had a photo of the Earth from space behind his desk and when anyone asked him to define the committee's jurisdiction, he would point to it.

House Speaker Tip O'Neill used to say “All politics is local”, but in JOHN DINGELL's case, all politics has always been personal. It is only when you have a personal relationship with someone that you establish trust, even when you're on opposite sides of an issue.

Through 60 years of public service, JOHN fought for what he believed in, and got things done through relationships and his deep respect for others.

And there was no one he respected more than his constituents. He respected their

hopes, their dreams, and their values. He has been relentless in his efforts to secure for them the right to live a decent middle-class life.

He has always been a staunch advocate for health care for every American, and he has been a player on every significant piece of legislation that has helped make America a more just, fair, and free country for over half a century.

It has been a privilege to walk the Halls of Congress with JOHN DINGELL.

I have never known a person who has been a better champion of the American worker, and he deserves a great deal of credit for the resurgence of the iconic American automobile industry.

The House and the American people are losing a great public servant.

But JOHN is gaining a well-deserved retirement, and I wish him many happy years with his family.

JOHN DINGELL has always been more than Mr. Chairman to me.

He has been Dean, the longest serving Member of Congress and one of the most effective in our history.

There has never been a colleague I have admired more.

Happy retirement, JOHN, and thank you for your service.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from the great State of Illinois, Mr. JOHN SHIMKUS.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I know there are a lot of Members, so I will be quick, but you have to really come down to the floor to recognize a man who has served honorably for so many years—58 years to be exact.

I would like to highlight the fact that, at 18, he joined the United States Army and rose to the rank of second lieutenant and was prepared to be part of the invasion of Japan until the bomb was dropped and the war ended. JOHN won a special election to follow his father, and he has been here ever since. He was the leading congressional supporter of organized labor, of social welfare measures, and of traditional progressive policies. He was also known as a big hunter and fisher, which we heard many, many times.

I also want to highlight that he was well-known for Dingell-grams, which were missives sent to the administration, regardless of party, that held them to account for public policies and the excesses of the executive branch. He is well-known for that.

I know he will be followed ably by his wife, Debbie, and I look forward to working with her.

May God bless you, JOHN DINGELL, and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to rise tonight and speak on behalf of my friend and colleague—the Dean of the House of Representatives—JOHN DINGELL. A proud son of Michigan, JOHN DINGELL has dedicated his life to helping those on society's margins and improving quality of life for all Americans.

While he is the longest serving member of the House, he is also one of the most accomplished members in its history.

It would be impossible to list all of JOHN DINGELL's accomplishments in the time we're allotted tonight. But make no mistake—JOHN DINGELL has played a role in every major legislative victory over the last sixty years. Throughout his time in Congress, he has been a champion for the American worker, for a clean environment, for health care, for civil rights, for consumers.

When I arrived in the House, I received a seat on the Public Works and Transportation Committee as my freshman assignment. However, I soon realized that my interests and principles were outside the scope of that particular committee. One day, I passed 2123 Rayburn and sat down to watch a hearing of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

For the first time, I saw firsthand our Committee at work. And, for the first time, I saw JOHN DINGELL in action. He filled the whole room. You couldn't miss him. That day changed everything. What I quickly realized was that the Energy and Commerce Committee had the ability to make improvements in the lives of everyday Americans. And JOHN DINGELL was leading the way.

I have had the privilege to learn so much from JOHN ever since I started on the Energy and Commerce Committee. A quarter century later, I am still humbled by the work that we do in 2123—now known fondly, and rightly so, as the JOHN DINGELL Room. And I can only hope to one day live up to the example set by a titan like JOHN DINGELL.

A few weeks ago, our new colleague, Debbie Dingell, said that she could never fill the shoes of JOHN DINGELL—and I feel the same way. When people think of the Energy and Commerce Committee, they cannot help but think of JOHN DINGELL. It is my own hope, that as I step into the committee's leadership I will be able to accomplish a small fraction of what JOHN had achieved. His commitment, charisma and charm were the hallmarks of his leadership when he sat at the committee's helm.

More importantly, he will be remembered for all he accomplished on behalf of the American people. Though the 114th Congress will be difficult for so many of us, who have served by your side, we are all so thrilled that your wife Debbie will take up the mantle. For those of us who have known her we know that there is no one more able and ready to carry on your legacy—the people of Michigan's 12th will continue to be well served. While you may be retiring, we know that you aren't going away. I know that for so many of us who have called you a mentor and a friend we will still be able to call on your sage advice and wisdom.

Congratulations on your many accomplishments and service in this great body. It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve alongside you.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, JOHN DINGELL is a legend in the Congress and a national treasure.

As the Dean of the House of Representatives, Congressman DINGELL will be retiring at the end of the 113th Congress, and his body of legislative achievements will continue to be experienced by every American for generations to come.

From protecting the environment, to promoting civil and worker rights, Congressman

DINGELL's legislative hand shaped it. He famously introduced health care reform legislation in 1955 and in every Congress since then to provide affordable, accessible care for every American. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, the 1965 Medicare Act, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments, the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, and the 2011 FDA Food Safety Modernization Act were all championed by Congressman DINGELL.

His meritorious contributions to society span his time serving in Congress and in the U.S. Army, where at the age of 18 he had orders to take part in the first wave of the planned invasion of Japan in 1945. Congressman DINGELL is the longest serving Member of the House, and he is one of two World War II veterans still serving in Congress. President Obama recently awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.

I recall so well the first time I walked into the Energy and Commerce Committee hearing room. It was 1995 and my eyes immediately went to an enormous picture of the Earth hanging on the wall. I asked Chairman DINGELL about the picture and his response has inspired and guided my legislative work because he said the painting represented the jurisdictions of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The Committee has the broadest jurisdictions which reach into the daily lives of millions of Americans. Those jurisdictions include health care, commerce, trade, manufacturing, energy and the environment, technology, communications and consumer protection. It is a reminder for members of the Committee to serve our constituents by fighting for meaningful and lasting opportunity. And it is a reminder that our job at the Committee has the most potential to create lasting impact.

Congressman DINGELL's service and legislation is unmatched in the history of our country and it has been a great honor to serve with him. I wish him and Debbie my full wishes for every blessing.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible service of the Dean of the House of Representatives, JOHN DINGELL.

In his 59 years in the House, JOHN DINGELL has experienced dizzying twists in national politics and turns in world events. And through it all, he succeeded in building a consistent record of achievements true to his core principle of social justice.

If you rely on Medicare—or plan to in your retirement—you can thank JOHN DINGELL. After fighting for its creation, he was the one presiding over the House for its historic passage in 1965.

If you've benefited from the Affordable Care Act, you can thank JOHN DINGELL for his pivotal role in passing this landmark legislation, and for continuing his father's fight to make affordable health care available to all Americans.

If you've benefitted from a safe workplace or fair pay, you can thank JOHN DINGELL for being a champion of the American worker and a tireless advocate for policies to help our businesses create jobs and our middle class get ahead.

And if you simply enjoy outdoor recreation and the ability to breathe clean air and drink

clean water, you can thank JOHN DINGELL for his vision. He brought Republicans and Democrats together to pass legislation that protects our environment.

On a personal note, I want to thank JOHN DINGELL for his wisdom and good counsel over the years. His guidance and effort were essential to passing the DISCLOSE Act in the House in 2010. That bill would have required groups spending millions of dollars on political campaign ads to disclose to voters who is bankrolling them. Unfortunately, the bill failed by one vote in a filibuster in the Senate. If JOHN DINGELL had been in the Senate, he would have gotten it passed.

Thank you JOHN DINGELL for all that you've done for our country.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, the life and career of the Dean of the House, JOHN DINGELL has been remarkable and historic.

John has been a friend . . . colleague . . . and a true leader in Congress.

During his nearly 60 years serving in the House . . . JOHN has served with passion and integrity. His commitment to public service and deep understanding of this institution has been unmatched.

JOHN has shaped policies that have improved the lives of countless Americans. From backing landmark Civil Rights legislation, to ensuring our environment is protected by authoring the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.

Most significantly, JOHN has never given up on the fight for affordable, quality health care for all Americans. Early in his career, he helped to pass Medicare, and achieved what he set out to accomplish with passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010.

There is no question that his work here will have a lasting impact on Congress . . . and this country . . . for generations to come.

It has been an honor to serve with JOHN on the Energy & Commerce Committee . . . where I have had the privilege to work with him on a number of issues, including helping to spur clean energy manufacturing jobs in this country; and helping American small businesses export their clean energy products and services abroad.

I thank him for his service and his friendship. JOHN, I wish you nothing but the best in your next adventure. You will be truly missed in this body.

I also look forward to working with your wife, Congresswoman Elect Debbie Dingell, in the coming years on important issues facing our country.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest legislators of recent decades, JOHN DINGELL, who will retire at the end of the 113th Congress.

JOHN DINGELL has diligently served the people of Michigan's 12th district and our nation for nearly 60 years.

JOHN is recognized as the Dean of the House and the longest-serving Member of Congress in our nation's history, but it's not his longevity that has made him so special—it's the impact that his legislative accomplishments have had on our society.

Through his service in Congress, he has crafted a legislative legacy that I believe to be unparalleled in its scope and its importance.

JOHN developed his reputation as a legislative giant with years of hard work, persistence, and shrewd coalition-building.

Throughout his tenure, he has been at the forefront of passing groundbreaking, common-sense legislation.

Most notably, JOHN has been a strong, tireless leader in Congress in enacting important civil rights laws.

Not only does this includes his work on the Civil Rights Act, but also his work to renew the Voting Rights Act and pass the Employment Nondiscrimination Act.

This type of diligent persistence and strong leadership is something every one of us can learn from going forward.

JOHN served for many years as Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where he drafted landmark legislation and conducted painstaking oversight of the federal agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction.

This includes championing environmental protection—from the groundbreaking legislation of the 1970s to the revolutionary Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to fighting in recent years against efforts to roll back the progress that we've made.

His passion for the environment and the outdoors is unmatched, and his accomplishments reflect his deep determination to make America a better place.

Impressively, along with the issues I've already mentioned, he has had a tremendous impact on policies as varied as consumer protection and health care.

Few Members of Congress have done as much to improve Americans' lives as JOHN DINGELL, and we can't thank him enough for his service.

JOHN's record of public service will be hard to match.

As a youth, JOHN served as a Congressional page.

After serving our country in the Army in World War II, JOHN served as a county assistant prosecutor before succeeding his father in Congress in 1955.

Since then, he has served 29 remarkably productive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I am proud to call JOHN DINGELL a good friend and respected colleague.

It has been an honor working with him on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

He has been a great mentor, a gifted leader, a skilled policy-maker, and a dedicated public servant.

I wish JOHN, his wife Debbie, and the entire Dingell family all of the best.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the congressional career of our colleague, the Dean of the House, JOHN DINGELL. As the longest-serving member of Congress ever, it is hard to imagine our nation, this Congress, and the Energy and Commerce Committee without him as he retires at the end of the 113th Congress. I am happy that he is leaving on his own terms and I wish him every happiness as he moves onto the next phase of his life as a congressional spouse.

I am just so honored to be here to celebrate and honor somebody I call a friend—JOHN DINGELL.

Over my time in the House of Representatives, I have noticed that everyone who talks about JOHN DINGELL says my friend, my chairman, my colleague, my mentor, someone I look up to, and someone I respect. I would just like to say that I can't really change those words because they echo my own sentiments.

I was not yet born when JOHN DINGELL was first sworn into the House on December 13, 1955. It was about two and a half years before I entered the world. When he took that courageous vote in support of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and civil rights, I was six-years-old. I recall at the time living here in the Washington metropolitan area that my father and mother used to bring us to this Capitol almost every Sunday after church. They would bring us and we would run up and down the east front of the Capitol. We would picnic on the west front of the Capitol.

I am thinking today how wonderful it is to know there was someone who was in this chamber who so valued this institution and who, even when I was a six-year old, JOHN DINGELL was working to protect my rights. When I think about that, I think of the need to create a formula for the VRA that the Supreme Court can support that institutes the way that we protect our voting rights in section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Almost none of us, including JOHN LEWIS, would be here had JOHN DINGELL not had the courage to take that vote in 1964.

So, it's such an honor to serve with him and to know that while that may have been the battle in 1964, he remains fully prepared to engage in the battle here in 2014. It is also an honor that we all have the great privilege of being able to serve with JOHN DINGELL.

I believe there is hardly anything that impacts our modern day laws that we can't attribute to the great hard work and public service of JOHN DINGELL. The fact that I got up this morning and turned on a faucet and ran a glass of water and was able to drink it and know that it was clean, was about JOHN DINGELL. That I walked outside today and knew that I could breathe air that was okay—we still have work to do—but to know that that clean air, and the cleaner we make our air, is attributed to JOHN DINGELL.

I think back to my grandmother who came to live with us at a point when she was aging—and it was actually just prior to the enactment of Medicare—and how different families' lives are now because of the protections that they have for health care as they age and are disabled. Those things are attributable to the great work, the legislative legacy, and the service of JOHN DINGELL.

When I first came into Congress, I won a primary election against an incumbent member. One day JOHN DINGELL pulled me aside in the cloak room and he said, "Come sit down, I want to talk to you, I want to get to know you." And I was, frankly, afraid of him. I knew his history, I had watched him Chair several Energy and Commerce hearings, and I knew that he was a great friend of my predecessor in this chamber.

I sat down and I talked to him, and what I gained from JOHN DINGELL was the kind of honor and dedication that he has, and reverence that he has, for this institution. It is unlike any that we see, and we learn from that. So we talked, and we became friends.

Then a funny thing happened. Barack Obama was elected President of the United

States, and his inauguration was about to occur. It is another reminder that JOHN DINGELL's almost 59 years of service—that anniversary will occur this Saturday—are about this amazing legislative work, but it is also about the children, women, men, and families of his district.

The Marching Chiefs of Wyandotte Roosevelt High School in Mr. Dingell's congressional district were invited to play in the 2009 inaugural parade for President Obama. Somehow or another, they booked a hotel in Hershey, Pennsylvania, that was approximately 130 miles and a couple of hours away from Washington, DC. Those students and their chaperones would have had to get up at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning to get to the inaugural staging area on time. I have the honor of representing a congressional district just outside of Washington, DC, in Maryland. JOHN DINGELL reached out to me and he told me this story, and I said, Well, maybe we can figure out something.

We found a willing partner in Wise Junior High School in Prince George's County, Maryland, where they could stay in the gym. The parent-teacher organization, the staff, and the students welcomed those students from Michigan that they didn't know at all into their high school. They fed them and provided sleeping bags, blankets, and even an ironing board. So, the Marching Chiefs were able to actually get to the inaugural parade much easier and on time.

Those students were so grateful to JOHN DINGELL. What I saw in this great legislator is that the people of his district really did come first and he looked out for them, and they knew that he looked out for them. I thought that that is the kind of Member of Congress that I want to be.

JOHN DINGELL and I have been locked at the hand and the hip ever since. In 2011, I was scheduled to speak at a Washtenaw County, Michigan, Democratic Club dinner. I flew into the Detroit Metropolitan Airport and as I walked through the terminal, the Wyandotte Roosevelt High School Marching Band started to play. Unbeknownst to me, JOHN DINGELL had coordinated with the school as a surprise thank you.

I think there are so many of us who serve in this institution who really do value the message that JOHN DINGELL has given us about the need to work together and to preserve and protect our democracy by working in a way that gives value and service to all of our communities and to this great nation. So for that, I want to thank JOHN DINGELL for being such an important part of this institution and important part of the way I have learned to become a Member of Congress.

Finally, I want to say a word about JOHN DINGELL's efforts on health care. As many of my colleagues know, JOHN DINGELL, like his father before him, has introduced a universal health care bill at the beginning of each new Congress. Before I came to the Congress, I had an experience of not having had health care and getting very sick, which required a trip to the emergency room. I ended up having a lot of bills that I couldn't pay because I didn't have health insurance. When we began to consider what is today known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it was JOHN DINGELL sitting as speaker pro tempore who gavelled in the House with the gavel that he used for the passage of Medicare.

Then during the course of the debate on the ACA, I had the honor of presiding as speaker pro tempore and there was one moment that JOHN DINGELL was speaking on the floor about his father's experience and about his experience working on health care. I will never forget that moment because for me it was what we do as legislators, but it also felt very personal. It felt so wonderful to know that in JOHN DINGELL's service, he has never stopped for a single day of those 59 years to make sure that millions of Americans like me could have health care that was quality, affordable, and accessible. So I thank him very much for his service, and I am so honored to have had the opportunity over these past seven years to serve with him and to learn from him.

JOHN DINGELL's retirement will leave a void in this House that cannot be filled. I wish him, his wife Debbie, his children Chris, Jennifer, John, and Jeanne, and his grandchildren continued success, happiness, and hopefully some well-earned rest. I know they have been of tremendous support to him in his service to this House and our nation. He leaves behind a legacy of service that others can and should aspire to.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues to pay tribute to the distinguished member of the Michigan Delegation: the Honorable JOHN DINGELL, as we mark the end of his long and dedicated service to this body and, more importantly, to the constituents of Michigan's 16th, 15th, and 12th Congressional Districts.

However, Mr. DINGELL's service to this country dates back well before he began his Congressional career in 1955. At the age of 18, he enlisted as an infantryman for the U.S. Army during World War II. He entered the military as a Private and was discharged as a Second Lieutenant while serving in the Panama Canal Zone. For his service defending our country, he received a medal presented by Oscar winning actor Tom Hanks as part of the "Salute to the Citizen Soldier" in 2004.

After serving in the Army, Mr. DINGELL was elected to fill the seat and the shoes of his father, who passed away while still in office. Together, he and his father have served the citizens of Southeast Michigan for well over 80 years. Blazing his own path, Mr. DINGELL has personally impacted every major piece of legislation for over half a century. Even though we come from different political parties, we can and do agree on many issues that concern the people of Michigan. As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, or its Ranking Member, he has always pushed for solutions to the problems Americans face. Impressive in both stature and tenacity, Mr. DINGELL has lent his life to public service. It has truly been an honor to serve alongside such an outspoken advocate for not only his constituents, but the state and country as well. And I must add that the dignity and respect he has shown his colleagues—and including this colleague—even as a brand new Member of Congress—is a testament to the respect he has for his fellow Members and this institution.

Mr. Speaker, the good citizens of Michigan's 12th district and colleagues on both sides of the aisle are all better for Mr. DINGELL's long and steady tenure in the House of Representatives. I congratulate him again on his remarkable career and join my colleagues today in paying tribute to the gentleman from Trenton, the Honorable JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to honor a great legislator, a consummate public servant, and a man whose legacy will leave an indelible mark on this institution and every American he served during his 59 years in the House of Representatives. As the Dean of the House, JOHN DINGELL holds the distinction of being the longest serving member in the history of Congress. However, it's not the length of his tenure that will earn him a place in the history books, but his many accomplishments that have improved the health of our entire nation and its citizens.

JOHN DINGELL presided over this chamber during passage of Medicare in 1965, just one of the laws he shaped over the course of his distinguished career. He helped write the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. He has fought diligently to protect Social Security, a program his father helped create, and he was a champion of the Affordable Care Act following years of advocacy on his own part to create an accessible and affordable system of universal health care.

Those of us who have been lucky enough to serve with Representative DINGELL will remember him as a man of unparalleled fortitude and passion, tempered with a sense of respect for his fellow colleagues and the legislative process, who raised the overall tenor of discourse and debate in the House of Representatives. Although we are extremely sad to see his service in this chamber come to an end, his contributions will continue to impact our country for years to come, and the DINGELL name will continue to grace the halls of Congress through his wife, Debbie, who will carry the mantle of public service on behalf of Michigan's 15th District.

Representative DINGELL, on behalf of a grateful country, I thank you for your service to this Congress and to our nation.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, others on the floor are recounting Representative JOHN DINGELL, JR.'s historic legislative record, his breathtaking parliamentary skills, and his powerful advocacy. I won't repeat all of that here.

But I would like to say something about my good friend, JOHN DINGELL, JR., and recount an event that shows a great man in the making. On December 8, 1941, soon after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered his speech saying that December 7th is a day that will live in infamy, the House briefly recessed and then reconvened to debate and declare war on Japan.

As I understand it, it was the job of a 15 year-old page, JOHN DINGELL, JR., to go up to the press gallery to tell Fulton Lewis of the Mutual Broadcasting System to turn off the microphones now that the House was going back into session because back then there was no audio recording of Congressional activities.

Instead JOHN told the famous newscaster to leave the microphone on and the tape running. The world now has the recording of that House debate and declaration of war. Here we see JOHN DINGELL, JR. already with a sense of history and an understanding of the importance of Congressional action.

JOHN, who knew that my father was serving in Congress at the same time as his father, befriended me early when I arrived in this Chamber, has shown me the warmest friendship and wisest counsel. For that I am most grateful and full of admiration.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Missouri). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. I don't know if he knows, but we are going to be honoring him tomorrow night.

Mr. WAXMAN. Thank you very much, Congressman PALLONE, for recognizing me and for acknowledging the fact that I am the ranking member at the present time, but, of course, you will now take on that job very ably, I am sure, and both of us will follow in the tradition of JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. Speaker, it is so appropriate that the room where the Energy and Commerce Committee meets is now known as the "JOHN DINGELL Room." JOHN DINGELL has been the leader of that committee and a leader in the Congress longer than anybody else has served in either the Senate or in the House; yet, what I want to say is from my own personal perspective.

I have served on that committee for 40 years, and I have learned more from JOHN DINGELL than I have from anybody else I have served with as a colleague. There were times when we had disagreements, and we argued them out and then resolved them and compromised on them; but most of the time, he was a stalwart defender of the interests of the working people of this country, a protector of the environment, a person who led the efforts for civil rights, a man who cared about people and understood that government had a very important role to play in people's lives.

From his father, who was active in the New Deal, under President Franklin Roosevelt, who led this Nation to use the government in a positive way—to help people who had nowhere else to turn—JOHN DINGELL carried on that tradition. It is the Liberal-Progressive tradition, and I associate myself with it.

I learned everything I knew as a member of the committee—and I learned everything I knew as a potential chairman and as a short-term chairman—from JOHN DINGELL. He is a Member's Member, and he is going to go down in the history books as one of the outstanding Members of Congress and leaders and chairmen of the oldest committee in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I know we don't have a lot of time, so I just want to say to JOHN DINGELL:

I wish you all the best, and I know you will whisper to Debbie, if she has any questions, the right course to take. Of course, she has been with you long enough that she probably, by this time,

will know what to do on her own. God bless you, JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), who himself has been the ranking member of two committees.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, one of my distinct pleasures in serving for 38 years in this body has been to work with the dean of the House, Mr. JOHN DINGELL. Throughout our almost four decades of serving the people of our respective districts and those of our Nation, my respect and sincere appreciation for this son of Michigan has only grown each and every day.

Few, if any, who have served here in the people's House over the last nearly 60 years would have a different view of the worth and of the value of JOHN DINGELL's contributions to the day-to-day work of this distinguished body. In fact, Representative DINGELL's vast legacy will assuredly be the legions of Members and staff who have learned so many lasting lessons of leadership under JOHN's tutelage. Basic, fundamental, timeless lessons on how to get the people's business done were always at the ready for any Member to partake in and adopt for their own future use. All of us can remember times when Big John felt it appropriate, timely, and beneficial to just gently impose one of his lessons on Members, even on this body as a whole, if he felt it would move our country forward.

First and foremost, JOHN DINGELL has always valued good, old-fashioned trust. He sees a person's word as his bond—a bond that never shifts even in the strongest political winds. In JOHN's playbook, loyalty, particularly loyalty to principles, is a powerful force that can move the entire country forward. He insists on one other useful attribute for success—time-tested hard work. One must put in the time to do the hard work, the homework, with great attention to the details, ensuring that every T is crossed and that every I is dotted.

These virtues exercised by my friend, whether by his hand's wielding the gavel or in his sizable arm's embracing your future in the back of the House Chamber, he has served our Nation productively. Upon this virtuous foundation, many compromises have been struck to forge stable vehicles to serve the people, their environment, their health, and their livelihoods. A champion of the American worker, of the autoworker, and of our Nation's coal miner, JOHN DINGELL fully appreciates the role that our government can and should play in supporting the breadwinners in every American family.

From the moment JOHN DINGELL came here to the moment he leaves and well beyond, these tenets are the legacy that will always burn brightly in my mind as well as warm my heart. Had I but served a single term with JOHN DINGELL, I would have counted many blessings because of it. Multiplied 29 times, suffice it to say, the entire Nation can itself count many

blessings thanks to the good work of our dear friend, JOHN DINGELL, the dean of the House of Representatives.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. "Thank you" to the gentleman from New Jersey for the recognition and for leading us in this Special Order that pays tribute to Representative JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand on the House floor this afternoon to say "thank you" to JOHN DINGELL.

Thank you for your service to country. Thank you for your service to the State of Michigan. Thank you for your service to your congressional districts through the years, and, certainly, thank you for your interaction and networking with your colleagues, which has crossed over party lines and has shown, in exemplary fashion, how to get business done in the House. In your tribute this evening, it is important to make mention over and over again of your service to the military by serving us in the Army and by serving us during World War II.

Also, the Great Lakes State, Michigan, has produced a leader of greatness in JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN, it is an honor to say here, during this special tribute, that you were, indeed, everyone's coach. I know the person of humility that you are. You shed that praise when it comes your way, but make no mistake about it that it has been your coaching, your reinforcement, your encouragement to each and every one of us. Certainly, to those of us who entered as freshmen, you were right there to shadow us and to guide us and to remind us that there is a nobleness—with a small "n"—of service through the House that can influence policy and speak to the needs of those most marginalized in our society.

To that end, I want to thank you for identifying so very strongly with struggle. You saw a struggle, and you moved to address it. Whether that be through health care, through human services, through education, and certainly through all sorts of efforts that speak to public safety, our environment, and our energy policy, you saw a struggle, and you met it head-on, and you made certain that the challenges were responded to. You showed us how to work across party lines, and you showed us how to be factual and to see your word as your honor.

With all of that, I salute you, JOHN DINGELL, as being an awesome leader who taught by example how to conduct yourself in this public arena. You are proud of your heritage. We have talked about that many times over. Those roots have fed you so very well and have enabled you to be this person of greatness coming from the Great Lakes State. So thank you so much for your service to country and to all of us here in the Chamber.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am testifying before the Rules Committee right now, but I will submit my statement for the RECORD.

To know him is to love JOHN DINGELL. He taught me that dedication to the legislative process and getting it done comes first.

It is a great privilege to speak about the career and accomplishments of my good friend, JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN has been one of the giants in this body a man with countless friends, but few peers.

His impact on this Institution and this country cannot be overstated.

Over the course of six decades, John has led some of the most important fights in the history of our country—fights for health care, civil rights, social justice, consumer protections, and so much more.

In 1964, he helped push the Civil Rights Bill through Congress.

In 1965, JOHN DINGELL presided over the House as it considered and then passed Medicare.

JOHN wrote the Endangered Species Act.

He wrote the 1990 Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and legislation to build North America's first international wildlife refuge.

He authored Affordable Care Act and then fought tirelessly for its passage.

Thanks to JOHN, millions of Americans are getting the benefits today of the Patient's Bill of Rights, the Children's Health Insurance Program, the Mammography Quality Standards Act, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, and the Prescription Drug User Fee Act.

JOHN DINGELL's towering list of accomplishments are the best representations of what Members of Congress can do when the long-term needs of the people—the country—are elevated beyond the fleeting politics of the moment.

Whenever the history of this country is told—The Civil Rights Act, Medicare, the Affordable Case Act, Environmental Protection, Workers Rights will stand out as the hallmarks of the Democratic Party—our core principles.

They are the legislative actions that delivered on the promise of the American dream—and helped to put it within reach for millions.

These pillars of social justice all bear JOHN DINGELL's name writ large.

JOHN DINGELL is also a strong advocate for women, a long-time champion for the Equal Rights Amendment, and a leader in the fight for Equal Pay for Equal work.

JOHN was here in 1963 when the Equal Pay Act was signed into law.

In the 108th Congress, he and I requested a report from the GAO on the Glass Ceiling.

That report analyzed 18 years of data on over 9,300 Americans and found that women working fulltime were being paid an average of 80 cents for every dollar that men are paid.

He has been fighting to realize the goal of the Equal Pay act for decades and it is a fight that JOHN's wife Debbie is sure to continue in the next Congress.

For more than 80 years, there has been a Mr. DINGELL from Michigan representing Democratic Values and the people of Michigan.

I know I speak for all members of the House when I say that I look forward to working alongside the first Mrs. Dingell from Michigan!

JOHN's impact on Congress and on this country will be felt for generations to come.

His unyielding commitment to do what is right—for his country and his Michigan constituents has been an inspiration to us all.

I fear we may never see his like again in this Congress—but I shall hope that each and every day—every Member of Congress will strive to live up to the example that was once set by the great JOHN DINGELL, Dean of the House of Representatives.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I thank my colleague and our new ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great lawmakers of our era, who has dedicated his life to fighting for civil rights, to strengthening our Nation's safety net for the vulnerable and elderly, and in pushing for workers' rights and protecting American jobs.

I am honored to call this man a mentor and a friend—the dean of the House, Congressman JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my full statement be placed in the RECORD.

JOHN's illustrious career speaks for itself: the longest-serving Member in the history of the House of Representatives; the author of dozens of Federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Affordable Care Act; the chairman or ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee for 28 years; a veteran of the Second World War.

What the history books will never be able to fully share is the respect and kindness JOHN has given to all who have been fortunate enough to work with him.

JOHN has always been generous with his time and with sharing his unparalleled institutional knowledge of the people's House. In 2005, JOHN was a vital voice, and he supported efforts to pass the Energy Policy Act, which became one of the key Federal supports for the current energy renaissance that is providing jobs and lower energy prices for the American people today. Outside of Washington, I was fortunate to spend time with JOHN on hunting trips, where I had the opportunity to get to know him better as a man, as a father, as a husband, and as an avid sportsman.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, I would like to personally thank JOHN for his decades of public service in fighting for America's working families. Our Chamber will not be the same without him. God bless JOHN DINGELL and the United States of America.

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What the history books will never be able to fully share is the respect and kindness JOHN gave to all who have been fortunate enough to work with him.

JOHN has always been generous with his time and sharing his unparalleled institutional knowledge of the People's House. In 2003, during the DeLay redistricting fiasco in Texas, which gerrymandered out many longtime House Members, JOHN advised me on what avenues were available to Members to voice disapproval.

In 2005, JOHN was a vital voice and supported efforts to pass the Energy Policy Act, which has become one of the key federal supports for the current energy renaissance that's providing jobs and lower energy prices for the American people today.

Outside of Washington, I have been fortunate to spend time with JOHN on hunting trips, where I had the opportunity of getting to know him better as a man, a father and husband, and as an avid outdoorsman.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, I would like to personally thank JOHN for his decades of public service in fighting for America's working families. Our chamber will not be the same without him.

God Bless JOHN DINGELL and the United States of America.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, in 1997, when I was a 39-year-old freshman, JOHN DINGELL took a risk on me. He put me on the Energy and Commerce Committee as a freshman. Since that day, I have learned at his knee every single day. He has become a friend; he has become a mentor—and like so many of us on both sides of the aisle, our experience here in Congress would not be the same without him.

□ 1715

A lot of us know about the long arm of JOHN DINGELL. Over the years, when Chairman DINGELL would put his long arm around your shoulders, and he would say, "Diana, I have a little chore for you," you knew that that little chore was anything but little. It was a part of something much, much bigger. Whether he was just moving a minor amendment to a bill or a large bill itself, and no matter what the issue was, it was always an honor to work together with JOHN DINGELL to get something done for the American people.

As the now-ranking member on JOHN DINGELL's subcommittee, the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, I feel a special responsibility to his legacy. JOHN DINGELL, over the years, held powerful people from all around the country,

from every part of industry, accountable to the American public. And today, it is up to all of us, as members of his distinguished committee, to take up the great mantle of that legacy and to make the powerful tell the truth to the American public.

I commit myself today, along with all of us, to carry on his legacy, to do just that, to make this committee a committee that JOHN DINGELL will be proud of.

I am going to miss my dear friend, my wise mentor, and my trusted colleague. All of us will. We all recognize the great contributions he made to this institution and, most importantly, to this country.

Few retirements are as well deserved, with such distinguished service as Mr. DINGELL'S. And so I want to say, JOHN, job well done. Godspeed.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

If a test of a career is whether you made a difference, Big JOHN's career has been a big success. In so many ways, JOHN was tall in stature physically and in every other way.

There has been much note about his particular accomplishments. I would like to spend just a few minutes today talking not about those accomplishments that are so vivid and so clear, but to talk about JOHN DINGELL and his character.

He remembered his roots, never forgot them. There was always, I think, a sense of the underdog. I think his family came to this country and felt, in a sense, like the underdog, but were thankful that they had an opportunity in this country to rise. And it is so clear that JOHN succeeded.

You might sum it up this way: JOHN DINGELL was a legislator's legislator. He combined courage and civility, dedication and decency, strong views with strong friendships.

I don't remember exactly when it was that, down the hall here, when JOHN was being honored, he decided to talk about this institution and what he had seen happen to it. And it was a very frank talk. And he really bemoaned recent events here, where it was much more difficult to have strong views but to have strong camaraderie, to have strong views but have the ability to compromise on them, to have strong views but find a way to seek and find common ground. That was so convincing, so persuasive for someone who has been in this institution longer than anyone else in the history of this country.

So I think our best salute to JOHN, maybe the best way to remember his contributions—in addition to all of the particular legislation that came to be and meant so much to millions of people in this country—is to try to pick up the mantle that surrounded him all of his career here, to really see if we can

seek and find some way in this institution to operate the way JOHN DINGELL saw so much of his career, and why he felt it was such a loss when it dwindled.

So I would like to just join everybody else with some emotion. Our two families have been so close for so many decades. Our two families, the Levins and the Dingells, the Dingells and the Levins, have had their lives so interwoven, so interwoven, coming from somewhat different backgrounds. But those weren't an obstacle. Those were really opportunities.

So I join so many others in saying to JOHN and to Debbie, who has been his partner, more than a job well done—a path that all of us should seek to follow.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my colleague for yielding.

It is such an honor, in paying my tribute, to follow one of Mr. DINGELL'S best friends, SANDY LEVIN, his colleague from Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride as well as deep humility to honor the longest-serving Member of Congress, the dean of the United States House of Representatives, the Congressman for the 12th District of Michigan and my personal friend, Mr. JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN has served his country with such honor and such distinction, first as a second lieutenant in the United States Army during World War II and, for the past 59 years, right here in Congress over the terms of 11—that is 11—United States Presidents.

But it is not just his longevity that has made JOHN such a force in the United States Congress. Yes, we are losing this man's incredible institutional memory, but hopefully neither he nor we will ever lose our love for this institution.

JOHN DINGELL'S hand has helped construct nearly every major advancement in social policy that this country has known over the past six decades, policies that support working families, that strengthen our middle class, and support the United States economy.

Many of us here speak of significant events in United States history, but JOHN DINGELL can speak of these historic events because he was often right there, standing by the President's side. JOHN knows this institution inside and out. And it is that knowledge, coupled with his belief that Congress does have a vital role in making this country better for all of us, that has made him so influential over the years.

But for all he has done for the Nation, JOHN has been and continues to be such a great friend to each of us, no matter which side of the aisle we sit on.

When I first came to Congress, JOHN DINGELL took me under his wing and helped me to earn a seat on the Energy and Commerce Committee, his beloved committee. He told me that we did

need nurses at the table, and he always has been a passionate advocate for quality health care. He is such a good friend to my own colleagues in the nursing profession.

The good people of Michigan are losing a great advocate for their State in Congress. This country is losing a passionate and brilliant Representative, and what I am told is the best Twitter feed on the Hill. And I am losing a personal friend on the floor of the House and a real mentor on the dais at the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

But we won't be sad for long. Next year, we will have another Dingell who will be here as one of us, and that is JOHN's very own lovely wife, Deborah. I look forward to working with Deborah and have no doubt that she will continue the legacy of service that JOHN and his father before him have established.

So with that, I do not say good-bye, dear friend, but I do say best wishes. And know that we are all so full of gratitude and in great debt to you for your service, as you have for so long been of enormous service to each of us.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield now to our Democratic whip, Mr. HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for taking this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, when this new House convenes on January 6, it will be the first in 59 years not to include the distinguished dean of this House, Mr. JOHN DINGELL of Michigan.

We will still have a Dingell from Michigan. It will be his wife, Debbie, whom so many of us in this House have come to know and admire. I have worked with Debbie every year that I have been in the Congress. She won the election to succeed JOHN, and surely we will continue to have him in our midst as a congressional spouse. But he will be very, very sorely missed among the Members of this body, all of whom he welcomed to the House over the course of his service as the longest-serving Member in the history of the Congress.

A lot of people like to point to JOHN's tenure in the House and note that when he came to Congress, Americans had Dwight Eisenhower as President, Brooklyn had a champion Dodgers baseball team, and Elvis Presley had his first gold record.

But what I will point out is what Americans did not have. They did not have Medicare. Seniors were unprotected from the rising costs of health care in their golden years until JOHN DINGELL became their champion and introduced legislation that was the precursor to Medicare. And he presided over this House when it passed Medicare in 1965.

Americans did not have the Civil Rights Act or the Voting Rights Act. When JOHN DINGELL took his first oath of office as a Member of this House, millions of African Americans across the South could not vote for Representatives in this House. Just 4

months after taking office, he bravely challenged the Eisenhower administration's leadership on civil rights.

He rose in this Chamber with great audacity to demand that the President protect those who were being denied their most fundamental rights as Americans. It almost cost him his seat. But all of us who know JOHN understand why he was willing to risk everything for a cause that was just.

Americans did not have the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, or the Safe Drinking Water Act, nor did they have the Endangered Species Act or the National Environmental Policy Act. JOHN realized before many of his contemporaries that if Congress did not act to protect our environment, future generations would inherit a Nation spoiled by pollution and neglect, so he became a crusader for conservation.

And the American people did not have SCHIP or the Affordable Care Act—SCHIP being children's health insurance. JOHN DINGELL fought his entire life in public office to make affordable quality health care accessible to all who need it.

In between his work to pass Medicare in 1965 and the enactment of health care reform in 2010, JOHN DINGELL successfully pushed for incremental progress that made the Affordable Care Act possible. And when Leader PELOSI struck the gavel to signify the passage of that law, it was the same gavel that was used by JOHN when he announced the passage of the Medicare Act nearly 50 years before.

□ 1730

I was proud to nominate JOHN for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor, and to be on hand last month as President Obama presented that Medal of Freedom to him at the White House.

Let no one mistake JOHN's legacy as one of simply longevity. Had he served nine terms and not 29, we would surely be here on this floor to praise him as a man of vision, of principle, of courage and achievement, and of a deep love for this country, its people, and for this institution.

I have had the privilege of serving with JOHN in this House for 33 years. Throughout that time, he has been a dear friend from whom I have learned much and with whom I shared many memorable experiences on and off this floor.

JOHN DINGELL, my colleagues, has been and is a man of conviction, he has embodied civility, and he has worked in a bipartisan fashion. His example is one that if we follow, it would benefit the country and the House.

As chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, JOHN was instrumental in supporting a strong auto industry and jobs for America and measures to promote manufacturing here in this country.

Americans remember with gratitude his determined effort as chairman to root out waste, fraud, and abuse across

the government and save the taxpayers while improving how the government works.

Seventy-three years ago this week, a young JOHN DINGELL, Jr., then a House page, sat in this Chamber, in which his father, John, Sr., served, while President Roosevelt delivered his famous speech asking for a declaration of war as a result of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on that Day of Infamy.

Four years later, while serving in the United States Army, Second Lieutenant JOHN DINGELL was preparing to invade Japan when the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought the war to an end and quite possibly saving his life. We are all grateful for that, that Providence spared him, so he could come to the people's House and do the people's work for 59 years.

We will miss him dearly. I will miss him. I take comfort in knowing that he will still be here among us as a private citizen, as the husband of the new Member from Michigan's 12th District, and as an elder statesman for our country who I hope will always be ready to share the wisdom of his experience with those who will continue his work in this House.

JOHN DINGELL has been a great American, a citizen who loved his country and served it well. God bless you, JOHN DINGELL, and thank you.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is an understatement to say dean and Chairman JOHN DINGELL is a gentleman of this House and a respected man of the law. He has served our Republic his entire life, beginning as a page for this House at the age of 12, followed by his enlistment in the United States Army and his service during World War II. He is a bona fide representative of the Greatest Generation's dedication and enduring legacy.

He is a Member's Member, always available for counsel and always with an encouraging word. How many of us have benefited from his astute advice? This Chamber says thank you to a man who knows how to negotiate, who knows how to legislate, and knows how to foster great change. He is a master of the art of compromise.

His service has been honorable for over half a century. He has been indefatigable. JOHN has walked forthrightly in the shoes of his beloved father before him, and he served our Nation nobly in this House and the people of Michigan who reelected him 30 times. His service has established a historical record 59 years long of consistent dedication to liberty and to the people of our country.

Historically, he has assumed his place as one of the House's strongest timbers, truly a foundational Member, a master of the rules and decorum that should attend to our privileged service here. He is a champion of the dignity of the House.

Generations to come would be well-advised to emulate his service. He understands and treasures this House, its centrality in steering progress for our democratic Republic.

He is a champion of civil rights, of living wage jobs in America and labor rights here and abroad, of American manufacturing and the auto industry, of energy independence for America, of Medicare and Social Security as his father was before him, of our natural environment and the legal basis for respecting it—our Great Lakes, the fish, fauna, and creatures that form the wild kingdom, the park systems and wildlife refuges, the river and ocean ecosystems that maintain and sustain the stunning beauty and bounty of our land and frankly sustain us. He is the heartbeat of Motown.

I personally will always treasure the moments we spent working on legislation to refinance the U.S. auto industry and our tours of the auto giants' manufacturing platforms, of the times we spent together creating the first international wildlife refuge in our country in the Great Lakes region spanning our shared Michigan-Ohio border with Canada, the clean water and clean air achievements, the tours of the La-Z-Boy company and that firm's stellar involvement in environmental stewardship of our Ohio-Michigan region.

Mr. Speaker, I shall always treasure our encounters, countless as they are, along the Ohio-Michigan border that we shared, the hundreds of plane rides together, often with Deborah along, with dear colleagues like JOHN CONYERS, Billy Ford, as well as our car ride back to Michigan together after 9/11.

We have shared the priceless opportunity to guard liberty and extend her welcoming arms to the people of Poland, our shared ancestral heritage, as Poland cast off the shackles of Communist oppression. Though each of us dreamed of the day when that incredible moment might transpire, its achievement remains one of world history's most glorious moments.

So the patriotic gentleman from Michigan, House seniority rank number one, our dean, you have not only earned your title as "Man of the House," you have inspired millions of people and ably met the call of DANIEL WEBSTER in your time and generation to perform something worthy to be remembered. You have met that test.

My colleague, may God bless you and Deborah and hold you and your loved ones dearly. America thanks you, and so do I, as dean of Ohio's delegation. Godspeed.

Mr. PALLONE. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate his friendship with the distinguished leader of the entire Congress, the dean number one, as Congresswoman KAPTUR said.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to be brief and put some of my statement in the RECORD and hopefully return to the floor in the couple of days ahead to say more about Mr. DINGELL because so many Members are waiting, and I hope more time will be afforded for us to sing the praises of this great man.

Every now and then, you hear the expression "somebody is a living legend." That doesn't even begin to describe JOHN DINGELL. He is a living legend. He has had a hand in nearly every major legislative accomplishment over the past six decades from protecting civil rights and workers' rights—and I am so glad to see JOHN LEWIS here—to ensuring food safety, to enacting essential consumer protections, and to creating jobs in Michigan's Twelfth District and throughout our country.

Among his countless achievements, none holds greater significance than his contribution to the good health of the American people. Each congressional term since 1955, he introduced legislation to secure affordable health care for all Americans.

In 1965, he held the gavel in his hand as Medicare became law of the land, and in 2010, more than half a century later, it was my privilege to hold that same gavel in my hand as we passed the Affordable Care Act, realizing the dream of the Dingell family.

To work alongside JOHN DINGELL is to be inspired by his strength, by the history of our institution, and by the seriousness of his work, not only the length of his service for sure, but the quality of his leadership. He is our distinguished chairman, our distinguished dean, a cherished colleague and friend, a living legend as I said, but that only begins to tell the tale.

His experience, his leadership, his partnership, and his passion will be sorely missed by all of us who had the honor to serve alongside him. We wish him and his beloved wife, our soon-to-be colleague, Debbie, and the entire Dingell family the very best.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in the tributes to a public servant of unmatched leadership and quality.

The distinguished gentleman from New Jersey has followed the many footsteps of Mr. DINGELL on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

AMERICA: LAND OF LIBERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) for 30 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. PALLONE. I want to thank the gentlewoman and remind my colleagues that we have a lot of speakers, so if you can limit your remarks, we would appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, as a freshman, I have learned to be brief, and I will be brief. Coming from Michigan and growing up in a political family and actually succeeding my own uncle, Dale Kildee, in this seat, one would think that Dale is the first Congressman that I really knew, but if you are from Michigan and you were born any time after the middle of the 1950s, JOHN DINGELL is the first Congressman that we knew.

He was a strong voice for our State, and he was really the picture of a Member of Congress for so many years. His longevity is obviously remarkable, but it is what JOHN did and stood for that is most remarkable over his long tenure.

He first was a witness to history in this place when 73 years ago this past Monday, his father was here and he was a page, he sat and watched Franklin Roosevelt give that famous speech on December 7.

He made history in this body. I remember just a few months ago watching on C-SPAN, as I do occasionally, and watching the signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and watching JOHN DINGELL stand there and receive a pen from President Johnson as that act was signed into law. I sat with him the next day and discussed that time in our history and realized what an amazing privilege I have been given to serve in the same body with JOHN DINGELL.

He is a witness to history, and he made history, but more importantly, for 59 years, JOHN DINGELL was on the right side of history. Look at his record. Look at what he has stood for. He has always been ahead of the rest of the country.

The one thing I do hope is that we can take a lesson from his service and realize that there has been a time in this body when you can be a strong and passionate voice, when you can hold to principle, but still find ways to work across the partisan divide and find compromise and get things done. That is the lesson of his legacy, and it is one that I think we all have an obligation to try to live up to.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard that Representative JOHN DINGELL from Michigan is the longest-serving Member of the House of Representatives in the history of this institution. You have heard that he has been a Member since 1955 and has held a seat in this body since President Eisenhower sat in the White House.

You heard that exactly 1 day and 73 years ago, a young JOHN DINGELL, then a page in the House, was standing in this very room when President Roosevelt gave his declaration-of-war speech against Japan. He was a page.

Needless to say, it has been a long road of public service for our friend and colleague, JOHN DINGELL. A great defender of civil liberties, JOHN DINGELL stood beside President Johnson as he signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Over his illustrious career, he fought for civil rights, for clean water, for Medicare, for American workers' rights.

On a more personal note, he has always been helpful to me even when I was just a wet-behind-the-ears freshman, and he shared his overflowing reservoir of knowledge and wisdom about the history and customs of this body and the workings of Congress. He will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I will always remember and appreciate his character, his integrity, and his courage in the fight for a better quality of life for the American people.

A poet wrote:

The tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light,
But stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,
Never became a forest king
But lived and died a scrubby thing.
The man who never had to toil
By hand or mind in life's turmoil,
Who never had to earn his share
Of sun and sky and light and air,
Never became a manly man
But lived and died as he began.
Good timber does not grow in ease:
The stronger winds, the stronger trees;
The further sky, the greater length;
The rougher the storm, the greater strength.
By wind or rain, by sun and snow,
In trees and men good timbers grow.

JOHN DINGELL is good timber. Sir, you will be sorely missed. Thank you for your service.

□ 1745

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to join with many of my colleagues in celebrating JOHN DINGELL and recognizing the many, many things that he has achieved for our country. It is not just that JOHN DINGELL has been the longest serving Member in history; it is what he did in his 30 terms in the House. Many today will honor him for his support of civil rights and voting rights, his lifelong support for working men and women and their unions, for the environment and much, much more. But for me, it is his passionate advocacy for national health care.

I came to Congress with the number one priority of winning affordable, quality, and comprehensive health care for all Americans. I worked to join the Energy and Commerce Committee so that I could learn from JOHN DINGELL, who has been called a legend in the fight for universal coverage. Following in the footsteps of his father, a key player in the passage of Social Security in 1935 and himself a strong fighter for national health care, Chairman DINGELL introduced the U.S. National Health Insurance Act in his very first term, and he has been fighting to make health care a right ever since.

JOHN DINGELL sat in that chair when we passed Medicare and Medicaid and gaveled it into law. He pushed for the Patients' Bill of Rights. He led the way as we created the Children's Health Insurance Program, and he was a key reason we were able to pass the Affordable Care Act in 2010.

Because of JOHN DINGELL, today more than 120 million Americans have access to health insurance in large part because of his leadership and vision. I am so grateful to have had the privilege of serving with and learning from JOHN DINGELL. I hope that we will follow his strong legacy and continue to make improvements in health care so that we can improve the lives and well-being of all Americans.

Thank you, JOHN DINGELL, for your unparalleled service to this country.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues tonight to honor my friend, my brother, the longest serving Member of Congress, the Honorable JOHN DINGELL.

I had heard of Congressman DINGELL long before I came to the House. I knew he had followed in his father's footsteps on his path to public service, that he was one of the youngest Members of Congress at the time. But most important, I heard that he would stand up, speak out, and fight for the issues of civil rights and social justice.

JOHN DINGELL is one of the most able and respected Members of this body. Yes, he is the dean of the House of Representatives. He had the capacity and the ability to say we have a right to know what is in the food we eat, what is in the air we breathe, and what is in the water that we drink.

He battled on the front lines for Medicare and Medicaid. He is the only Member of Congress still serving today who voted for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He also helped win passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that JOHN DINGELL is the embodiment of a time when legislators did not hesitate to use the power of the Federal Government to do good for all.

JOHN, my friend, my brother, my colleague, thank you for your service. Thank you for all of the good that you have done to make our country and to make our world a better place.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

As a new insurance commissioner in California in 1991, I had lots of problems with pensions, a lot of problems with insurance companies going broke. I was summoned to Washington to appear before the Commerce Committee to explain. I had great fear in my mind. The very famous JOHN DINGELL was chairing that committee. But I very quickly realized his goal and mine were the same, that is, to find ways to protect people. A deep friendship then ensued for many years.

My mentor is leaving this session. I will miss him. I know that everybody in this House will miss him in many ways. He is a good man. His heart is as big as this Nation which he has worked so hard for.

JOHN DINGELL, a great, great Member of Congress.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota for yielding us extra time.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it was a privilege to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey on behalf of our colleague who set a historical record of serving this Chamber and the people of his district so well for 60 years.

And it is a privilege for me now also, Mr. Speaker, to be in this well to deliver what is my last speech on this floor.

It has been the privilege and the honor of a lifetime for me to serve as a Member of the United States Congress, serving as the first woman ever elected from the State of Minnesota in the capacity of being a Republican. It is an honor, and it is the ride of a lifetime. As I stand here in the well of this House, I am so filled with joy and so much happiness in understanding that the privilege I have is one of being really a link on a chain that has gone on for hundreds of years.

I stand right here on the soil, in the square feet that are the freest square feet in the world because you see, Mr. Speaker, it is here where any voice that holds an election certificate can speak forth the words, words that maybe a President of the United States would vehemently agree with, disagree with, words that maybe colleagues from one's own party and the opposing party may vehemently disagree with, words that in some sense might incite people to anger or to even riot in some cases, but words, nonetheless, that are free—free, free—because a price was paid so that speech could be given. It is an honor. Where else could we find this level of freedom anywhere in the world?

That is why at the very top of this Capitol on the rotunda dome standing a full 20 feet tall is a statute called "Freedom." It is a woman, and her name is Freedom. She stands as the uppermost point in this part of our Nation's Capital. She faces east because she faces toward the sunrise so that every day Freedom's face looks into the morning sun, and, happily, we begin yet one more day of liberty in this country.

You see, I am so proud to be a part of this Nation. I am so proud to be an American citizen because I recognize the costs of my freedom, the price that was paid for it by those who have gone before. I am so thrilled to have this opportunity.

Just behind me, Mr. Speaker, above where you are standing, is our Nation's motto. It says, "In God We Trust." What a fabulous motto. Could any better motto be written for any nation to

declare full voiced that it is in God that we as a nation put our trust? What other more trustworthy venue could there be? What other trustworthy vehicle could there be than a holy God?

You see, it is not just today that we mouth these words. These words were mouthed by the Founders of our country, those who decided to leave the comforts of their home to come here to what was essentially an untested, untapped world where there were people, the Native Americans who populated this land, but where a brand-new culture was about to be born, one that would be again the fulcrum to bless the entire world, where people would know that they could come from any portion of the world and find freedom as individuals, but also as a nation.

We have so much to be thankful for, so much to be grateful for. For many people who have never had the privilege of being in this House Chamber before, this is the room where the laws of our Nation are formulated. Our Founders meant that the House of Representatives would be the most powerful form of government. Why? Because it would be these 435 Members that we eventually became would hold the power of the purse. We would hold the Nation's credit card. It would be up to us to decide what we spent money on and what we didn't. We would formulate policy for what is now some 300 million-plus American people.

We are the lawgivers because the people of this country have given us the privilege of the election certificate to make the laws. We must never forget that it is by the consent of the governed that we rule and that we decide our laws.

As I look about this Chamber, we are ringed with the silhouettes of lawgivers throughout history—Hammurabi, various lawgivers throughout all of time, lawgivers for whom veneration is required. And yet only one lawgiver has the distinction of not having a silhouette but having the full face be revealed by the artist. That lawgiver is Moses. Moses is directly above the double doors that lead into the centermost part of this Chamber. In the face of Moses, his eyes look straight upon not only our Nation's motto, "In God We Trust," but Moses' face looks full on into the face of the Speaker of the House.

Daily the Speaker of the House, as he stands up in his authority and in his podium, recognizes that he, too, is a man under authority, just as Moses was a man under authority. Because you see, Mr. Speaker, Moses is given for the full honor as the greatest lawgiver in this Chamber because he was chosen by the God that we trust to be entrusted with the basis of all law. The basis of all law, as was written by Blackstone, the famous English jurist, was the Ten Commandments that were given by none other than the God we trust on Mount Sinai. We know those laws. Those laws are the fundamental

laws of mankind. And here in the United States, the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses are the very foundation of the law that has given the happiness and the rise of the greatest prosperity that any nation has known before.

Mr. Speaker, it could be no coincidence that this Nation, knowing and enjoying the heights of such great happiness and such great prosperity, could be built upon that foundation of the Ten Commandments and of the law given by the God in whom we trust. What a privilege we have been given. What an unparalleled foundation. We have so much to be grateful for and thankful for.

Before I continue my remarks, I want to also say thank you to people in their individual capacity who have done so much to help me in my service in the House of Representatives. I want to thank, first of all and most importantly, the people of the Sixth Congressional District of Minnesota who thought enough of my campaign to give me the election certificate that I have been privileged to hold for these four terms that I have served in office for 8 years. Had the people of the Sixth Congressional District not elected me to service, I would have never known what a privilege it would be to serve them here in this Chamber. I thank the great people of the Sixth District. It is known as Lake Wobegon country, the greatest people in this country as far as I am concerned—people where all of the men are good looking and the children are above average. It is a State unlike any other, and I am privileged to have served.

I also want to thank the many numerous volunteers who worked on my campaigns to send me here. Without their tireless work stuffing envelopes and serving on the campaigns and making phone calls, it never would have happened.

□ 1800

I was a homemaker at home with our family. I had been a Federal tax litigation attorney. I had had the privilege of starting a charter school. My husband and I started our own company, but I was essentially nobody from nowhere, and because people believed in me, they elected me, and they brought me here. I want to thank again the people of the Sixth District and the volunteers who sent me here.

I also want to thank the donors who very generously gave their money also so that I could be here. I had very hard-fought campaigns. I was often the top nemesis for the opposite political party in election after election, and millions of dollars were spent to make sure that I would not have the privilege of standing in the well of this House.

I want to thank those who gave me the money to be able to come and who sacrificed so that I could be here. Over the years my races were so expensive that at one point mine was the most expensive race in the country. That

was done on an average donation of \$41 per donation. Millions and millions of dollars with an average donation of \$41.

I am so proud of that because real people across the United States saw in me an authentic, credible voice who was here to speak for them. I had people all across the country who said to me, MICHELE, thank you, you speak for me, and I am so thankful that you have fought for me here in Washington.

They knew that I wasn't here to speak for special interests. They knew that I wasn't bought and paid for. They knew that I was speaking for them. I want to say for those that did donate money to my campaigns, I am the same person today as I was when I came here 8 years ago, and I fought for you and for the values that you sent me here to fight for.

I also want to say thank you to the God who saved me. I am so grateful to the Holy God who created us, the Creator God, the God that Jefferson pointed to in the Declaration of Independence. It is because of Him and because He created me in His image and likeness, as He has each one of us, that I even have the possibility of coming here to be able to serve.

I also thank my parents, my father, who has passed away. I thank my mother, Jean LaFave, and my stepfather, Ray LaFave, for their love and their support over the years as well. I am thankful to my brothers, David and Gary and Paul, and my stepbrothers and my stepsisters.

I am thankful to my husband of 36 years, Marcus; to our five wonderful children, Lucas, and his wife, Christine; Harrison, Elisa, Caroline, and Sophia; and also to our wonderful 23 foster children whom we were privileged to raise over the years. As I often joke, yes, I am the old woman in the shoe. I have raised 28 children, and I am so grateful for each one of them.

I am thankful for my very dear friends over the years who prayed for me and stood by me and helped me to get to this position, to my supporters from the great State of Minnesota, and most particularly to the prayer warriors. The very first committee that we formed every time I ran for political office was our prayer committee, and I thank you to the intercessors who prayed routinely for me. Those prayers I believe were answered.

I also say thank you to the men and women who serve today in our Armed Forces. It was the privilege of a lifetime for me to go and travel across the world to Iraq, to Afghanistan, to Germany, and various places around the world where I was able to meet you in your service, and I thank you for allowing me to meet you there.

I say thank you to our veterans who have gone before. You know how near and dear you are to my heart. I am the daughter of a veteran, stepdaughter of a veteran, sister of a veteran, and I am so grateful because I recognize we would not be here today if it wasn't for our veterans, and I thank you for your

service to our country because you answered the call.

I want to also say thank you to my staff:

My longest-serving staff member, Kim Rubin, who came with me on day one and who has served me every single day so superbly as my scheduler. There is no one quite like her, and I have absolutely no idea how I will order my life once I leave here without Kim Rubin.

I say thank you to my chief of staff, Robert Boland, who has stepped in and done a wonderful job with our well organized machine in our office. He makes it a joy for everyone in our office to serve.

I say thank you to my press communications director, Dan Kotman, who has done such a wonderful job every day challenging me to make sure that I can be as good as I can and to keep me from making the mistakes that I am all too prone to make;

For Mikayla Hall, who keeps me on the current edge in absolutely everything that she does, with a brilliant career in front of her;

For Renee Doyle, my dear longtime friend and legislative director, who has a heart of gold and who has served tirelessly in every form of her capacity;

For Jason Frye, Sergeant Frye, who has served our Nation as a veteran but who now will be a legislative director for my successor, and he will do a wonderful job serving.

For Kevin Wysocki, who has served me so well. I thank him, Mr. Speaker, for the brilliant, high-quality man of integrity that he is;

For Jessica Cahill, who has always been there to serve me in every possible capacity that she was asked to do;

For our intern Julie; for our district director Deb Steiskal, who has been so faithful to me during my time in service; for Barbara Harper, who has been with me through thick and thin through 16 years of activism and political life; for Nicole Severson Pelzer, who serves our veterans; for Karen Miller, who will continue to serve our district.

I am so grateful for the Capitol Police, for all that they have done to secure my safety; for the Sergeant at Arms; for our chaplains; our Bible study leaders; for the Clerk's Office.

I want to give a special shout-out to James, who runs the railroad car in the basement of the Rayburn Building. James has become a wonderful friend, a man of God, and we literally have tears in our eyes when we are saying good-bye to each other in these last days. He has brought joy to my heart, and I thank him as well as I thank Maria, who stands right out here outside the door. She has to fetch me all the time because I am usually the last one in the Chamber, trying to get more business done, and Maria says it is time to go, Congresswoman, and I thank God for Maria and what a darling that she has been.

I am grateful for the committee staff from the Financial Services Com-

mittee, on which I have been privileged to serve for 8 years, for the committee staff on the Intel Committee. No one knows how hard they work and what a vital service they play to our Nation.

I am grateful for Bonnie, the elevator lady, who is always so happy.

I am grateful for the two ladies at our lunch counter back in the cloakroom, to Ms. Pat and Ms. Doris. You are such good cooks, you make wonderful sandwiches, and I always knew that if I was short \$2, you would see me through to the next day. So thank you for believing in my creditworthiness.

More than anything, I want to say thank you to the Founders of this Nation, who gave us the most incredible ride by believing in us and in our future, by recognizing that these truths are self-evident, that all men and all women are created equal, that we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among those rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

What that means to me is this: no government gave me rights that only God can give, and no government can take away the rights that only God can give. The only reason that we even have a government and the only reason it was instituted among men is to secure for me and for you the rights that God gave us: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Beyond that, we rule by the consent of the governed.

This is a pretty simple gig to figure out here. There are things that government can't touch. Would that we would learn that. But there are things that we do, and those things that we do should be for the happiness of mankind. You see, it is our job not to think only of ourselves, but to think of the generations that are yet to come.

My favorite Americans are people who didn't know they were Americans. They were the Pilgrims. They came here before our Nation was founded. I love the story that was written by Governor Bradford. He wrote in his journal, which I have read in the King's English multiple times. The Pilgrims are one of my favorite groups of people.

Governor Bradford wrote that with the sorrow and the sacrifice that the Pilgrims made—you know, the very first year when they came over, fully half of them died in that first starving winter. Governor Bradford wrote that it was worth it all because the Pilgrims saw themselves, in his words, as stepping stones. He said they willingly laid down their lives and sacrificed themselves because they looked into the future, Mr. Speaker, and they saw you, and they saw me, and they saw all of the American generations that would come after them, and they saw what a marvelous land filled with natural resources, the ability to have freedom, a completely new covenant, a completely new promise that we could make with the future and with the God that we trust.

We could have here a brand new, ordered experiment in liberty, and we

did. The generations benefited, and our generation has benefited like nothing before. And that is what we too must do.

As I wind down my remarks, I say thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you that I could have that privilege of also being a stepping stone to look to the future so that the next generation would live better than we do today. Thank you for the privilege.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2244, TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 12, 2014, THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2015

Ms. FOXX from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-654) on the resolution (H. Res. 775) providing for consideration of the bill (S. 2244) to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and providing for proceedings during the period from December 12, 2014, through January 3, 2015, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 30 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, one of the great privileges of serving in this body is that occasionally we walk among giants. Most of us 435 Members are ordinary, but among us are a few extraordinary citizens who become Members of Congress and serve this great country.

We are saying good-bye this week to one of those giants. JOHN DINGELL, after serving some 59 years in this Chamber, is leaving us, and leaving us with a legacy of legislation that is truly astonishing: the Endangered Species Act, the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments, the Safe Drinking Water Act, legislation to create the first international wildlife refuge in North America, not to mention the Civil Rights Act or the Affordable Care Act or any number of other giant pieces of legislation.

He has often said when asked about the jurisdiction that he was in charge of as chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee that he would point to a map of the Earth when asked about his jurisdiction and would say,

"If it moves, it is energy, and if it doesn't, it is commerce." That is the way he would define the jurisdiction under his leadership.

We are thrilled that his wife now continues that extraordinary legacy by joining us as a Member of the next Congress, and I look forward to working with her on so many very important issues.

So to JOHN DINGELL I say, I walked among many here in this Chamber, none as giant as you, and forevermore I will remember your great leadership to this body and to this country.

MEDICAID PRIMARY CARE PAY BUMP AND
WOMEN'S HEALTH

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I now would like to shift gears, Mr. Speaker, and speak about an issue that, frankly, JOHN DINGELL would be very concerned about as well, and that has to do with Medicaid primary care pay bump.

At the end of this year there will be up to 7 million more women who are eligible for Medicaid through the Medicaid expansion program who will not be able to get health care because they can't find a doctor.

□ 1815

Medicaid pays less than Medicare and private insurance for primary care. That is not surprising. In 2012, the average Medicaid rates were only 59 percent of Medicare rates for primary care services.

Now, you may be scratching your head and saying: Well, why would we somehow cheat the poor out of health care? That is precisely what we are doing. By reducing the amount of money available to physicians who provide care to the poor in this country, we are basically saying: "Find it if you can."

In my home State of California, the Medi-Cal reimbursement rates are on average only 43 percent of Medicare rates for primary care services. This map shows what the situation is. The very light color are those States which were at 33 to 57 percent, the medium blue is at 59 to 82, and the dark blue is at 85 to 98 percent of Medicare rates. As you see, most States are in that 59 to 82 percent range, but many large States, like California and Florida, are between 33 and 57 percent.

The Affordable Care Act addressed this issue by creating a 2-year Medicaid pay bump for certain primary care services for millions of low-income individuals newly eligible for Medicaid-covered care. Without congressional action by the end of this year, that pay bump expires and, with it, health care for millions of Americans.

I come to the floor today to demand that we extend the Medicaid pay bump past 2014 and protect health care for our low-income constituents.

Additionally, the way the current pay bump is structured disadvantages women, many of whom prefer to see their trusted OB/GYNs to access primary and preventive care services. As we know, primary care and preventive

care are crucial to the general health of our citizens, as well as to the reduction of health care costs, but the pay bump doesn't cover these crucial primary care providers.

When I was in the State legislature in California, I, like many of us here, tended to find legislation that related to something that I knew. I realized that I never went to the doctor. The only time I went to the doctor was to visit my OB/GYN once a year.

When primary care providers were being identified, I thought: Why shouldn't OB/GYNs be allowed to be primary care providers as well? So I introduced legislation in California which became law that specified that indeed OB/GYNs could be primary care providers.

What we do know is almost 6 in 10 women report seeing their OB/GYN on a regular basis. It is the one thing that women do at least once a year. One-third of women view their OB/GYN providers as their main source of care, so Federal recognition of the primary care role that OB/GYNs play for women in the ACA's Medicaid pay bump lags behind this general recognition in many other sectors of our health care infrastructure.

Thirty-five States and the District of Columbia classify OB/GYNs as primary care providers for their Medicaid programs. In TRICARE, the Federal health care program for our military servicemembers, OB/GYNs are recognized as primary care case managers.

OB/GYNs are included under the primary care provider definition in community health teams, a grant program that supports primary care practices and patient-centered medical homes. In the primary care residency program called the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program, which aims to increase the number of primary care residents and dentists trained in geographically isolated, economically, or medically vulnerable communities, OB/GYNs are included as one of the primary care disciplines.

Let's be clear. Lack of recognition of OB/GYNs as primary care providers under the ACA pay bump puts women who receive their health care from Medicaid at a disadvantage. Twenty-three percent of women Medicaid beneficiaries report a problem finding a new doctor who will accept their insurance, compared to 7 percent of Medicare beneficiaries and 13 percent of women with private insurance, due very simply to the very low payment plans and rates that exist for Medicaid.

I urge my colleagues to extend the Medicaid pay bump past 2014 and expand it to include a protection for women's health by officially including OB/GYNs as primary care providers.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota, Congressman RICK NOLAN, my very good friend and someone who I admire greatly as well.

(Mr. NOLAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, I want to join my colleagues in paying tribute to a great Member of Congress serving with us today but who is planning to retire, the Honorable JOHN DINGELL. I would like to do so by telling a little story.

Some 40 years ago, I was elected to the Congress of the United States for the first time. Before I had even been sworn in, I faced my first big challenge. The Congressman that I preceded had passed some legislation called the Big Stone Wildlife Management Area. The editor of our biggest newspaper had applauded him for that. I supported it in my campaign. I said: "I'll do everything I can do see that it's fully implemented and fully funded."

Well, I had just been elected, and the President of the United States announced that the project was not going to go forward, it was not going to be implemented, and it was not going to be funded. Here I am, I have just been elected, at least it appears as though I am already doing harm and damage to the district, and I haven't even been sworn in yet.

We came out here for a little orientation session, and I decided I would check with the chairman of the Interior Subcommittee that is responsible for this kind of legislation, to see if he had any advice for me on how I could effectively deal with this.

He said: "Come see me tomorrow." So I went to see him the next day and he said: "Put out a press release. The project is going to be fully staffed, it's going to be fully funded, it's going to be fully implemented."

I said to him, questioningly: "Gee, Mr. Chairman, the President of the United States of America says it's not going to be fully funded, it's not going to be fully implemented."

He put his arm around me and he said: "Son, let me tell you something. Presidents come and go around this town with quite regularity. Old dogs like me have been here forever, and I'm going to be here forever. The bureaucracy will listen to an old dog like me before they'll listen to some darn fool President of the United States."

Well, needless to say, apprehensively, I put out the press release saying the project was going to be fully funded, fully implemented, and indeed, it was. In the process, I learned an incredibly valuable lesson from Mr. DINGELL, and that is there are many ways to effect public policy beyond the legislative actions—which of course are perhaps most important—that we make here in this Chamber.

By getting a hold of these bureaucracies and talking to them and telling them what you would like to see happen and, when appropriate, being supportive of their mission and their goals, they are inclined to be supportive of you as well.

That little story happened 40 years ago. Well, then I went on a 32-year hiatus. I spent the next 32 years of my life in the private sector, in business, community service, and raising my family.

I came back here 40 years later and who is still here proving his point but JOHN DINGELL.

As I said, 11 Presidents have come and gone, but he is still here. I believe he has served longer than any other Member of the Congress in the history of the country; perhaps, most importantly, he is maybe the greatest Member to ever serve in the Congress.

There are so many good things that have happened in this country over the better part of a half a century that we can attribute to the good work of the honorable Representative, the great Representative JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN, we are all so grateful for your incredible service. I am thrilled and honored to be able to be here to join my many other colleagues in saluting you for your great service to the people that you have represented so ably from your own district, but your larger vision as well of what has been so important for the progress of the people here in America.

Thank you for your wisdom. Thank you for sharing that with so many of us who benefited from having sought your wisdom. Thank you for your effectiveness and all the great things you have done for this country. We salute you, Mr. DINGELL.

We love you, and we will miss you, but we will be forever grateful. This country will always be a better place for you having served in this Chamber.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I now have the opportunity to offer remarks concerning my six terms of service in the House of Representatives. What a distinct honor and privilege it has been to serve 700,000 fellow citizens from southeastern Pennsylvania in these hallowed halls.

From the moment I stepped foot in this building during freshman orientation back in 2002, I knew I was joining an institution that has been at the epicenter of landmark legislative decisions during the course of our Republic's history, and I knew that I would put up scores of historically important votes on behalf of my constituents.

From sitting in Statuary Hall during our freshman orientation dinner, where the likes of Abraham Lincoln and John Quincy Adams served, to sitting in this Hall during my first State of the Union address, to meeting with the President in the White House or on Air Force One, I have had more than my fair share of "pinch me" moments in this job.

However, the essence of the service that we all provide to our constituents is not the number of special moments

interacting with a President or sitting through a historic speech. It is the honor and the privilege to serve every single day and in working to meet the needs, aspirations, and expectations of one's constituents.

We introduce legislation, we vote on bills that come before us, and we undertake day-to-day constituent services that hopefully improve the quality of life of our fellow citizens and move our great Nation forward.

The majority of this work is done outside of the political limelight and is rarely reported on by the media, but the real, important work that all House Members do every day boils down to being the strong and passionate voice for the 700,000 citizens we serve, both in this legislative Hall, as well through the constituent services we provide.

I have had the great fortune of having some bills passed in both the House and Senate and then signed into law. Those experiences were very heartwarming and satisfying, but I also assisted in having constituents get veterans benefits or Social Security checks sent to them or their son or daughter receiving an appointment to one of our fine military academies.

Each and every one of those legislative and constituent experiences has added to the richness and fulfillment I have received from my experience here, and so I must express my gratitude and my appreciation to the numerous people who have assisted in supporting me along the way.

I have been blessed with wonderful supporters back home who have helped me through some very tough and competitive campaigns. They were always there to lend their energy and commitment, and I especially thank them for the faith they placed in me.

I have had a terrific staff, both in my D.C. and district offices, who have tirelessly worked on behalf of my constituents and supported me in my efforts. I would particularly like to recognize the various chiefs of staffs I had over the years: Linda Pedigo, Guy Ciarrocchi, Bill Tighe, Annie Fultz Dutton, and Lauryn Schothorst. They have been incredibly helpful and responsible for allowing us to accomplish all that we have.

On a more personal note, I would also like to thank my mother for the unbelievable inspiration and example she was for me over the years through her work ethic, her honesty and integrity, and her passion for civic responsibility.

I also want to thank my two sisters, Hedy and Eve, for always supporting me in my decisions to run for public office and in helping me any way they could.

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A special thank you to my children—Katie, Jimmy, and Robby—and my stepchildren—Joel, Jay, and Katelyn—for their unwavering support for my public life.

Finally, I want to thank my great partner in life, my wife, Karen, who

has unfailingly helped me and supported me in whatever public service decisions I have made.

As we close out the 113th Congress, amid cantankerous partisan relations both here in Congress as well as in our country generally, I would be remiss if I did not call on all of my colleagues here to renew their commitment to work together across ideological and partisan lines to find the best public policy that will move our country forward.

We share a common purpose as Members: to represent and advocate on behalf of our respective districts and reflect the will of the voters who have sent us here.

But the American people want something more. They have a burning hope that Members, regardless of party affiliation, will work through their political differences and find the common ground that is the bedrock of our country. So now, more than ever, public service must be infused with the commitment to achieve and not just to argue.

I wish all of those being sworn into office at the start of the 114th Congress in a few weeks the best of success as they work towards historic achievements in the next 2 years.

Leaving Congress gives one time to pause and think and ask a simple question: Why did I come here in the first place?

Well, the answer to that question is pretty clear to me and pretty simple: to provide my constituents with a strong and passionate voice in the legislative process, to provide a level of constituent service that is second to none, and to serve with honesty and integrity in all actions.

As I look back, I hope and believe I have accomplished these goals, and I am most appreciative of all the great friends that I have met in my time here. But above all, I thank all of those who voted me into public office over the past six terms for their confidence and for their trust. It has been an incredible honor and a privilege to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills and a Joint Resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 78. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4110 Alameda Road in Houston, Texas, as the "George Thomas 'Mickey' Leland Post Office Building".

H.R. 1707. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the "James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 2112. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the "National Clandestine Service of the

Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office”.

H.R. 2223. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the “Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building”.

H.R. 2366. An act to require the Secretary of Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of World War I.

H.R. 2678. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10360 Southwest 186th Street in Miami, Florida, as the “Larcenia J. Bullard Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3534. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as the “Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office”.

H.R. 4939. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2551 Galena Avenue in Simi Valley, California, as the “Neil Havens Post Office”.

H.R. 5030. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13500 SW 250 Street in Princeton, Florida, as the “Corporal Christian A. Guzman Rivera Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5462. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for limitations on the fees charged to passengers of air carriers.

H.R. 5739. An act to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 105. Joint resolution conferring honorary citizenship of the United States on Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid, Viscount of Galveston and Count of Gálvez.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 229. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 3900 Woodland Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the “Corporal Michael J. Crescenzo Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.”

S. 1434. An act to designate the Junction City Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located at 715 Southwind Drive, Junction City, Kansas, as the Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

S. 2673. An act to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 2917. An act to expand the program of priority review and encourage treatments for tropical diseases.

S. 2921. An act to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of

Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the “Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic.”

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 8, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 43. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Red River Avenue North in Cold Spring, Minnesota, as the “Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office.”

H.R. 451. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the “Richard K. Salick Post Office.”

H.R. 1391. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the “London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office.”

H.R. 3085. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3349 West 111th Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the “Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building.”

H.R. 3375. To designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the “PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.”

H.R. 3682. To designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1961 Premier Drive in Mankato, Minnesota, as the “Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic.”

H.R. 3957. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218-10 Merrick Boulevard in Springfield Gardens, New York, as the “Cynthia Jenkins Post Office Building.”

H.R. 4189. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4000 Leap Road in Hilliard, Ohio, as the “Master Sergeant Shawn T. Harmon, Master Sergeant Jeffrey J. Rieck and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building.”

H.R. 4443. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Vermilyea Avenue, in New York, New York, as the “Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara Post Office Building.”

H.R. 4919. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 715 Shawan Falls Drive in Dublin, Ohio, as the “Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids and Captain Nicholas J. Rozanski Memorial Post Office.”

H.R. 5106. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100

Admiral Callaghan Lane in Vallejo, California, as the “Philmore Graham Post Office Building.”

H.R. 669. To improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

H.R. 5681. To provide for the approval of the Amendment to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes.

H.R. 4924. To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona.

H.R. 5069. To amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to find the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, also reported that on December 9, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 4812. To amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5108. To establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5462. To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for limitations on the fees charged to passengers of air carriers.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 10, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2014, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JAMES BRANDELL, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 5 AND OCT. 8, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
James Brandell	10/5	10/7	Belgium .....	.....	918.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	918.00
	10/7	10/8	England .....	.....	521.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	521.00
	10/4	10/8	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,644.70	.....	.....	.....	1,644.70

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JAMES BRANDELL, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 5 AND OCT. 8, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Committee total					1,439.00		1,644.70				3,083.70

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JAMES BRANDELL, Nov. 18, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, REBECCA TALLENT, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 23 AND OCT. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Rebecca Tallent	10/23	10/25	Greece		336.00		13,145.00				13,481.00
	10/25	10/28	Turkey		1,293.00						1,293.00
	10/28	10/31	Italy		1,311.00						1,311.00
Committee total					2,940.00		13,145.00				16,085.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REBECCA TALLENT, Nov. 21, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Mark Meadows	8/9	8/12	United Kingdom		1,210.49			214.95			1,425.44
	8/12	8/12	Belgium				87.39				87.39
	8/12	8/15	Hungary		744.90			287.17			1,032.07
	8/14	8/14	Croatia				44.91				44.91
	8/15	8/16	France		516.00			203.18			719.18
Hon. John J. Duncan	8/9	8/12	United Kingdom		1,210.49			214.95			1,425.44
	8/12	8/12	Belgium				87.39				87.39
	8/12	8/15	Hungary		744.90			287.17			1,032.07
	8/14	8/14	Croatia				44.91				44.91
	8/15	8/16	France		516.00			203.18			719.18
Hon. Michele Bachmann	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Eric Burgeson	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Hon. Larry Bucshon	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Hon. Jeff Denham	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Janet Erickson	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Hon. Blake Farenthold	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Hon. Bob Gibbs	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Hon. Duncan Hunter	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Fleming M. Legg	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Stephen Martinko	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Hon. Markwayne Mullin	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Hon. Thomas Rice	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Hon. Mark Sanford	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Hon. Bill Shuster	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Dennis Wirtz	8/13	8/18	China		1,338.54		361.70	375.70			2,075.94
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong		451.26		146.06	137.63			734.95
	8/19	8/20	Korea		329.10		100.75	157.77			587.62
Committee total					36,726.28		9,392.25	11,477.10			57,595.63

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BILL SHUSTER, Chairman, Nov. 18, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8183. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments [FAC 2005-78; Item V; Docket No.: 2014-0053; Sequence 4] received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8184. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Higher-Level Contract Quality Requirements [FAC 2005-78; FAR Case 2012-032; Item IV; Docket No.: 2012-0032, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AM65) received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8185. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Year Format [FAC 2005-78; FAR Case 2014-006; Item III; Docket: 2011-0023, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AM53) received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8186. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Streamlining Claims Processing [FAC 2005-78; FAR Case 2014-011; Item II; Docket No.: 2014-0011, Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 9000-AM83) received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8187. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Incorporating Section K in Contracts [FAC 2005-78; FAR Case 2014-001; Item I; Docket No.: 2014-0001, Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 9000-AM78) received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8188. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-78; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket No.: FAR 2014-0052; Sequence No. 6] received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8189. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting a report entitled "American Energy Manufacturing Technical Corrections Act of 2012 — Section 8 Best Practices for Advanced Metering"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8190. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Commercial Clothes Washers [Docket No.: EERE-2013-BT-TP-0002] (RIN: 1904-AC93) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8191. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Exemption From Registration for Persons Authorized Under U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission or Agreement State Medical Use Licenses or Permits and Administering the Drug Product DaTscan [Docket No.: DEA-394] (RIN:

1117-AB38) received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8192. A letter from the Chief, Policy and Rules Division, OET, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Provide Spectrum for the Operation of Medical Body Area Networks [ET Docket No.: 08-59] received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8193. A letter from the Chief, Policy and Rules Division, OET, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions; Office of Engineering and Technology Releases and Seeks Comment on Updated OET-69 Software; Office of Engineering and Technology Seeks to Supplement the Incentive Auction Proceeding Record Regarding Potential Interference Between Broadcast Television and Wireless Services [GN Docket No.: 12-268] [ET Docket No.: 13-26] [ET Docket No.: 14-14] received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8194. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 2014 Annual Report on the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, pursuant to Section 304 of the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000 (Title III, P.L. 106-309); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8195. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress and the Corporation for National and Community Service's Response and Report on Final Action for the reporting period April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8196. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's response to alleged violations of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8197. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2014 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8198. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8199. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8200. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for Fiscal Year 2014, prepared in accordance with Title II, Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8201. A letter from the Director, Office of Administration, transmitting the personnel report as required by 3 U.S.C. 113 (2014), for personnel employed in the White House Office, the Executive Residence at the White House, the Office of the Vice President, the Office of Policy Development, and the Office of Administration for FY 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8202. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "ANC 1A Did Not Fully Comply with All Legal Requirements"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5086. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for purposes (Rept. 113-651). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5699. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-652). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. KLINE: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 4320. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues; with an amendment (Rept. 113-653). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 775. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (S. 2244) to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and providing for proceedings during the period from December 12, 2014, through January 3, 2015 (Rept. 113-654). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. LOEBACK):

H.R. 5811. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a charitable deduction for the service of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical and rescue personnel; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 5812. A bill to support innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIMM (for himself and Mr. NUNNELEE):

H.R. 5813. A bill to allow for a contract for operation of Melville Hall at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, after receipt of a gift from the United States Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association

and Foundation, Inc., for renovation of such hall and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BARTON (for himself and Mr. BRIDENSTINE):

H.R. 5814. A bill to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself and Mr. LOEBBSACK):

H.R. 5815. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for pharmacy benefits manager standards under the Medicare prescription drug program to further transparency of payment methodologies to pharmacies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Armed Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 5816. A bill to extend the authorization for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 5817. A bill to amend section 701 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to clarify the period of eligibility during which certain spouses are entitled to assistance under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 5818. A bill to relinquish all Federal interests in certain lands in the State of Louisiana to correct errors resulting from possible omission of lands from previous surveys, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARRIS:

H.R. 5819. A bill to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to ensure that scientists are being funded at the age when they are most likely to make breakthroughs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HARRIS:

H.R. 5820. A bill to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to allocate additional funding through the Common Fund for research by emerging scientists; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KINGSTON:

H.R. 5821. A bill to expand the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 5822. A bill to establish a Hazardous Materials Information Advisory Committee to develop standards for the use of electronic shipping papers for the transportation of hazardous materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MATHESON:

H.R. 5823. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create incentives for healthcare providers to promote quality healthcare outcomes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 5824. A bill to modify certain provisions of law relating to torture; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 5811.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, "The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes."

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5812.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 2: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mr. GRIMM:

H.R. 5813.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BARTON:

H.R. 5814.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec 8, clause 3. To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 5815.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, as applied to healthcare.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 5816.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 5817.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 5818.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution, which states "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all need-

ful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

By Mr. HARRIS:

H.R. 5819.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. HARRIS:

H.R. 5820.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. KINGSTON:

H.R. 5821.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 5822.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States).

By Mr. MATHESON:

H.R. 5823.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 5824.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 11 and 18.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 139: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 140: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1318: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1354: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2376: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2482: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2856: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 3424: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 3708: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3750: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 4169: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 4240: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 4324: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 4351: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 4510: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 4772: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 4790: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4865: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 4920: Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 4930: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 4960: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 5059: Mr. FOSTER, Ms. GABBARD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. REED, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 5130: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 5182: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 5267: Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 5320: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 5407: Mr. COHEN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 5474: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 5481: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 5484: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 5589: Ms. MOORE, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 5655: Mr. REED.
H.R. 5656: Mr. NOLAN, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 5686: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 5709: Mr. GARRETT.
H.R. 5742: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 5747: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 5764: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 5780: Mr. TIBERI and Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 5782: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 5783: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5792: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5803: Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. FALDOMAVEGA.
H.R. 5806: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. REED, and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 5807: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. POLIS, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. Res. 190: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Ms. DELAURO.
H. Res. 688: Mr. BERA of California, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. TAKANO.
H. Res. 762: Mr. FORBES.